

*Inquiries of the Ministry***UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

## ACTION TO EXPEDITE PROCESSING OF CLAIMS

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** I have a related question for the Minister of Labour. I realize the minister may have some difficulty in answering the question inasmuch as he only reports to the House for the Unemployment Insurance Commission. I have asked the minister this question before. Will he use his good offices with the Unemployment Insurance Commission to do something to try to untangle the administrative mess with regard to the processing of unemployment insurance claims? I ask the question at this time particularly in view of the increase in unemployment.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

• (2:30 p.m.)

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** I cannot accept the implication that there is any administrative mess. I can certainly make representations to make sure that the Unemployment Insurance Commission maintains its usual high rate of efficiency, which at this moment means they are processing over 98 per cent of the claims on time. I shall try to improve that to 99 per cent.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** Does the minister agree that waiting for three and four months in many, many cases amounts to processing on time?

**Mr. Speaker:** I suggest to the hon. member again that this is debate. I recognize the hon. member for Greenwood.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**PROPOSED AMCHITKA NUCLEAR TEST—  
REPRESENTATIONS ON STRATEGIC GROUNDS

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Is the minister now in a position to reply to the question I asked him the other day concerning the strategic implications of the Amchitka test?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Yes, sir. I thank the hon. member again for notice of the question. I am advised that the United States has disclosed officially that the purpose of the proposed nuclear explosion on Amchitka Island is to test the war-head for the Spartan missile, the long-range interceptor component of the Safeguard antiballistic missile system. In the second part of his question the hon. member asked whether I had made any representations on strategic grounds to the United States. I have not done so, although my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, has been in active consultation with United States authorities on this point, as the hon. member knows.

24319—59½

[Translation]

**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**SUGGESTED STUDY BY GOVERNMENTS OF MORE  
EQUITABLE FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS TO ALLEVIATE  
UNEMPLOYMENT

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister related to a statement made recently by the Premier of Quebec concerning the coming conference of first ministers on unemployment.

Since the Premier of Quebec stated that he did not place much reliance on such conferences to deal with the problem of unemployment and that in his view the best way to do so would be through a more equitable fiscal distribution between the federal and provincial governments, is the Prime Minister considering the possibility of discussing the matter with the premiers as a means of solving the problem of unemployment?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of such a statement, but it seems incomplete to me, if it was made since, as the hon. member knows, the provinces are free to set whatever rates of taxation suit them in all direct tax fields. So, if the provinces think that they have not enough money, they can always increase their taxes rather than ask the federal government to give them some.

As for the tax distribution itself, it is true that the present agreements will end next year and that we must, this fall, on dates that will be proclaimed as soon as an understanding has been reached with the provinces, discuss such a question at a federal-provincial conference of both the premiers and the Ministers of Finance.

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**CONSUMER AFFAIRS**REGULATION OF TELEVISION ADVERTISING DIRECTED  
AT CHILDREN—REQUEST THAT EFFECTIVE DATE OF  
CODE BE ADVANCED

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

The Canadian Association of Broadcasters has just made public an advertising code for children. Since this code will be put into effect only on January 1, 1972, that is after the holiday season, I should like to ask the minister if he intends to take the necessary steps to put a stop right now to this harmful advertising?

[English]

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the code I tabled at the beginning of the day's session became effective as of yesterday. The hon. member asks about further action. I made it clear in the press release I issued yesterday relative to the code that we would, of course, continue to enforce all the laws related to misleading or deceptive advertising, which are laws of the country, in addition to the voluntary code.