

When does the minister expect to table the report of the advisory inquiry committee established last April.

[English]

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I presume the hon. member is referring to the report of the advisory committee of the Unemployment Insurance Commission, on benefit control operations. I have answered this question several times in the House. I am now awaiting the final report from that committee which has been delayed by a public meeting that I believe is being held in Toronto today, to be followed by a public meeting in Vancouver. The chairman of that advisory committee tells me that following the completion of those public hearings, it is his intention to submit a report as quickly as possible.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL TO OTHER JURISDICTION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. William C. Frank (Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Have representations been received from concerned veterans associations in Ontario expressing concern about the handover of the Westminster Veterans Hospital in London and, if so, what stand is he taking?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, representations have been made to me by people concerned about the handover of the Westminster Veterans Hospital. If it is turned over, this will be done with great caution. Certain things will be guaranteed. Veterans will be looked after and given priority. The veterans employed there will keep their employment.

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● (1450)

ENERGY

PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—REASON FOR FAILURE TO MAKE CANADIAN POSITION CLEAR TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Peter Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, I have an additional question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources on the subject of the pipeline from Alaska. Last April he said repeated attempts had been made to inform Washington of the government's position with regard to this oil pipeline. Can the minister say why he is finding so much difficulty in communicating with Washington and whether he anticipates he will now be able to make our position clear as it relates to an oil pipeline through Canada.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Well, Mr. Speaker, as I have stated, our position has been communicated both to the United States State Department and the Secretary of the Interior and, indeed, to members of both the Senate and of the House of Representatives when they were in Ottawa.

Oral Questions

Mr. Oberle: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I had occasion to visit Washington in April of this year and I would hate to see the Secretary of State for External Affairs have the last word on this subject. He has said that the Senate and Congress of the United States were aware, and that the House was aware—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member knows, or ought to know, that this is not a point of order. If he can show me, by reference to the Standing Orders, how an intervention of that kind is a point of order I will be pleased to hear him further.

Mr. Oberle: Mr. Speaker, the point of order is that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has said that the position of the government was made clear to the House of Commons, to the people of Canada and to the Senate and Congress of the United States. That is very difficult for me to believe.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member can believe or disbelieve what is said in the House by other hon. members but that has nothing to do with the Standing Orders of the House of Commons.

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FOOD PRICES REVIEW BOARD

DATE OF COMPLETION OF STAFFING OF BOARD—INQUIRY AS TO FIRST REPORT

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the sharpening urgency of the food price situation, can the minister tell us whether staffing of the Food Prices Review Board has been completed. If not, why not? When does he expect this staffing exercise to be completed?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I understand from reports I have obtained from the Board that the staffing activity is quite advanced but I do not have information today as to whether or not it is complete. I will endeavour to get further information and inform the hon. lady.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Bearing in mind the minister's recent promise that the first report of the Food Prices Review Board will be made by early fall, can he tell us whether this report will contain concrete recommendations to the government for dealing with the price of food, or whether it will be merely an outline of a grand strategy for the winter campaign?

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INCREASE IN FOOD PRICES—SUGGESTED USE OF EXPORT CONTROLS TO CORRECT

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): A supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In the light of the announced removal of controls by the United States government and the resulting sharp