

*Inquiries of the Ministry***THE BUDGET****INQUIRY AS TO PROBABLE DATE OF PRESENTATION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce):** I should like to ask the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, if he could possibly give the house any date as to when he is going to present his budget to the house?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** No, I regret I cannot give that date today, Mr. Speaker.

**LABOUR RELATIONS****HALIFAX DOCKYARD—JOB EVALUATION WITHOUT CONSULTATION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, on two occasions I have asked the Associate Minister of National Defence certain questions with regard to Halifax dock workers. May I ask him whether he now has the answers or, if he has not, whether perhaps the Minister of National Revenue has the answers.

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, a few days ago a number of questions were directed to the Associate Minister of National Defence as a result of telegrams received from the Halifax Dockyard Trades and Labour Council, telegrams expressing concern about a job evaluation program that was being instituted without consultation with representatives of the employees concerned.

In May, 1964, the preparatory committee on collective bargaining made recommendations to cabinet calling for major reforms in the systems of classification and pay applying to civil servants and prevailing rate employees. The recommendations urged that steps be taken to develop and introduce a new and improved system based on a relatively simple structure of occupational categories and groups, a system that might be expected to provide a suitable framework for the negotiation of pay rates in the contemplated collective bargaining regime.

The recommendations were approved in principle and referred to the Civil Service Commission, which was asked to undertake the very large and important task of implementation. In October, 1964, the Commission established for this purpose a new unit known as the bureau of classification revision.

[Mr. Hellyer.]

Since that time, the bureau, with the co-operation and assistance of all departments, has made a good deal of progress. Most of the required work on the administrative and administrative support categories has been completed. Planning work on the remaining categories, including the operational category to which dockyard employees will be assigned, is under way. It is expected that the whole program will be completed during 1967.

The major employee organizations in the Public Service have been consulted at every step in the development of this program. I am informed that, as soon as its tentative plans for the operational category have been formulated, the bureau intends to consult as well with organizations whose interests are limited to specific occupational groups in this category. These organizations will include the Dockyard Trades and Labour Councils in both Halifax and Esquimalt.

**Mr. Lewis:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister assure the house, and through us the workers involved, that the plans will not be implemented until the bodies concerned have been consulted, as well as informed of the result?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, I indicated that the bodies concerned would be consulted at the appropriate stage.

[Later:]

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Associate Minister of National Defence and ask him if he would consider, upon request from the Dockyard Trades and Labour Council, the facility of a meeting with him on the very urgent and important question being considered in Halifax.

**Hon. Léo Cadieux (Associate Minister of National Defence):** That I shall, sir.

**TRADE****INCREASE IN COMMODITY EXPORTS TO OVERCOME TRADE DEFICIT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question to direct to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. On March 9, in reply to a question by the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Hees) the minister indicated that in his discussions with the United States authorities, he was aware