

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

and discipline, be agreeable to the parents and preserve the interests of the students.

The revision of the regulations has begun and I think it would have been better if the problem had been raised at the local level before being raised in Parliament.

[English]

**Mr. Lewis:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would inform the minister that my roster keeps me away only one day a week.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Trudeau:** We can allow you more, if you wish.

**Mr. Lewis:** That is, compared with the minister's roster. Has the minister received a second telegram bearing some 60 names, indicating that the purport of the telegram to which he referred last week was voted down twice at two meetings of the residents, and requesting an inquiry into conditions at Akaitcho Hall? If so, will the minister consider instituting such an inquiry?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, indeed, I have received that telegram. I also got many others from parents, and that is why I have requested the commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Hodgson, to look into the matter.

[English]

**Mr. Lewis:** I would ask another supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, with your permission. Is the minister aware of the existence of a report issued some time ago by someone called Steve Iveson, of the Company of Young Canadians, on conditions in Akaitcho Hall? This report contained a stinging condemnation of conditions there. If the minister is aware of that report, has he given it study and taken steps to see that the situation is remedied?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I have not received such a report yet. I believe that it should have been submitted to me before falling into the hands of an opposition member.

[Mr. Chrétien.]

[English]

**CANADIAN ECONOMY****STEPS TO MEET INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING**

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** I have a question for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the cost of living has risen substantially each month for the last 16 months—the longest losing streak on record—and that there is no indication that this current trend is about to be reversed, would the minister advise the house if the government is planning in the near future to introduce new initiatives to counteract this trend?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** I would like to point out to my hon. friend that according to O.E.C.D. Canada had the third best record in the western world with respect to the cost of living.

**An hon. Member:** That is not good enough.

**Mr. Benson:** Secondly, I have indicated publicly that I think this is not good enough, and that all of us must practise restraint. I hope my hon. friend will support all my budget measures in this regard.

**Mr. Hees:** If this procedure is winning, I would hate to see us when we are losing. However, I would like to ask a supplementary question. Do the minister and his colleagues never get headaches from keeping their heads in the sand so long?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, the only time they get headaches is from listening to my hon. friend.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that his last question was not in order. I did not hear the reply but I suspect that that was not in order either.

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT****ACTION TO DEAL WITH WALKOUTS AND ABSENTEEISM**

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. It probably has to do with some headaches too. I am referring to the disturbing and obviously deteriorating conditions in the minister's department. Will he say how he intends to deal with the walkouts and large scale absenteeism under way in Ontario yesterday, and with the protests of 2,000 carriers in Montreal?