

Oral Questions

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we are very anxious to assist in the export of Canadian eggs, and there have been representations made to a number of countries, particularly in the Middle East and elsewhere, with a view to helping the Egg Marketing Agency remove or reduce its surplus.

Mr. Beatty: Part of that \$10 million?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I do not know which minister the hon. member was referring to when he referred to the Minister of Agriculture; but if he was referring to this one, I deny emphatically making that statement, and I don't care what paper it was in.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

STUDY INTO SAFETY OF MINES OPERATED BY CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour in reference to the commission of inquiry set up two months ago to look into safety in the mines operated by the Cape Breton Development Corporation. Having regard to the time-frame, is the minister in a position to tell us when we may expect an interim or final report?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give an answer right now, but I will check into it. I believe it will be some time yet.

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FISHERIES

REQUEST FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN SALMON ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Solicitor General but I see he has escaped. Instead, I will direct my question to the Minister of State for Fisheries. Has the minister received a request from the British Columbia government for further assistance in respect of the salmon enhancement program and, if so, has he replied to that request?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, during the very useful discussions held with the minister responsible for fisheries in the province of British Columbia, in October we did look at all the problems involved in this proposed development. We discussed not only financial aspects, but the allocation of resources in terms of protecting spawning rivers. We are working very closely with B.C. at the official level in the preparation of proposals which will go forward in due course. This is a most imaginative and remarkable program suggested by my predecessor.

Mr. Reynolds: Mr. Speaker, would the minister advise the House who the submission is going to, the provincial government or the federal cabinet, for approval?

[Mr. Beatty.]

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, co-operation is ongoing between the officials of my department and the provincial officials. There are also discussions at the ministerial level.

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● (1300)

PUBLIC SERVICE

CONSIDERATION BY GOVERNMENT OF SINGLE SECTOR BARGAINING AS MEANS OF REDUCING LABOUR DISPUTES

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board and it follows my motion of yesterday dealing with the fragmentation of union power within the public sectors. In view of the increasing number of walk-outs and strikes within individual and essential public sectors of our economy, with one of which we are presently being faced, can the minister advise the House whether his department or any other department has given consideration to the possibility of single sector bargaining and, if not, would he now be prepared to consider this method of negotiation as an answer to some of the problems plaguing the essential services of this country?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should know that a joint committee of the House and of the Senate is studying the Finkelman report on this subject. If he has particular views on the issue he could make representations to the committee. Of course, a bill on this subject will be brought before the House after the committee has reported to the cabinet.

[English]

Mr. Jelinek: Could the minister then explain whatever happened to the leaked memorandum of the recommendation submitted to the cabinet by the Minister of Labour regarding labour relations in Canada, which dealt in part with the problem of fragmentation within the single public sector of our economy along the lines which I suggested in my motion yesterday and as I have suggested in the past?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I am not very concerned about what can be written outside the House or about some comments that can be made at this time. The House has the opportunity to review the situation. If the hon. member has definite views on the subject, he should inform the committee.

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[English]

MANPOWER

AVAILABILITY FOR EMPLOYMENT OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS NOT REGISTERED WITH MANPOWER PLACEMENT CENTRE

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): My question is addressed to the Minister of Manpower and Immi-