

Oral Questions

Mr. Bill Domm (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise the Hon. Member that none of the reasons advanced as justification for the recent changes are true. The realism is that periodically the Government does review members' appointments to the Board of Canada Post. That has been an ongoing process. It has happened in former administrations and was no different from what is happening in this administration.

METHOD OF APPOINTING LABOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, is the Government aware that there are two labour positions on the Board of Canada Post and that it has been a practice to seek the nominations from the President of the Canadian Labour Council for those positions? Is the Government aware that there are other members of that Board who have served the same length of time as the member who has been taken off the Board, and who still continue to serve?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member states that those two Board positions which have been filled by representatives of organized labour are positions which are filled by the CLC. One of the present members on the Board of Canada Post is the President of the Letter Carriers Union of Canada. In due course other appointments will be made to the Board of Canada Post, as the Parliamentary Secretary has just told the House. Positions change and there will be more appointments in due course to the Board of Canada Post.

* * *

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION OF ACADIAN PENINSULA

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Last week, the Minister indicated that the planning stage of the Community Futures Program in the Acadian Peninsula had been signed in February. Later on, she informed us it would take at least a year for the program to be implemented. Is the Minister prepared to recommend to Cabinet that the Acadian Peninsula be designated as a community which particularly pressing needs?

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is one of the communities in New Brunswick which is being considered for Community Futures right at this present time.

[Translation]

LENGTH OF DELAY

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker . . . But you are saying it is being considered. Are you

trying to tell me that the Peninsula's jobless will have to wait a whole year, until this special program becomes operational?

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): No, indeed, Mr. Speaker, the Community Futures Program is being implemented in a number of places across the country. We have situations in all the provinces where we are according priority implementation to the Community Futures Program. These are in areas where unemployment is at its highest. It does take some weeks to work out the individual arrangements, but I can tell the Hon. Member that the Acadian Peninsula is certainly one of those at the top of priority.

* * *

● (1440)

NATIONAL SECURITY

NORTHWEST PASSAGE INQUIRY

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Last year the United States Government told Canada that the *Polar Sea* would sail through the Northwest Passage. Is it true that the *Polar Sea* will make the return voyage through the Northwest Passage this year?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AUSTRIA—ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is it the Government's intention to obtain and investigate the information about the President-elect of Austria that is available through both the United Nations and the Government of Yugoslavia?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as was indicated, in what I thought was a very sensitive and thoughtful statement prior to Question Period by the Hon. Member for Mount Royal, this is a question of some delicacy. If I may quote the Hon. Member, it is one in which it would be unwise for Canada to act until all the facts are known. The people of Austria have just concluded a democratic election. It is not the practice of Canada to pass judgment or comment upon the results of free elections in other countries.