

Committee reports

rest of the year to broaden the input? Will he hold hearings in the north? Will northerners have a say? Will there be a sectoral analysis including mining, Indian affairs, and other legitimate minority groups which will be affected in the north? What technique will the minister use to broaden the input and the public information that is necessary to make the right decision finally?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, the hon. member is well aware that the input already over the last couple of years has been very significant. We have heard from mining interests. We have certainly heard from the oil and gas people. We have heard from the chambers of commerce. We have heard from all the resource-oriented people. We have heard from native groups. We have heard from the territorial governments themselves on this question, and we are continuing to hear from them with respect to this, so the input has been gigantic. Some of the suggestions have been very good.

As the hon. member is aware, one impact on the whole question of northern benefits is the energy situation as far as north of Sixty is concerned. An energy task force has been working with the territorial governments and native interests. The report of the task force is almost ready for publication. Perhaps the draft is already in the hon. member's hands; I do not know. However, we are coming out with our own energy paper following that task force, and northerners have been very much part of that. It will have a very significant impact on what form northern benefits take because, as the hon. member knows, a very significant portion of the higher cost of living in the north relates directly to energy costs.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

TABLING OF SIXTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Eva Côté (Rimouski-Témiscouata): Madam Speaker, I have the honour of presenting the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, in accordance with the orders of reference of Tuesday, February 2, 1982.

The committee has studied Bill C-88, an Act respecting loans to farmers, and has agreed to report on the subject without amendment.

A copy of the proceedings and statements relating to the bill have been tabled.

[Editor's Note: For text of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

TABLING OF ORDER IN COUNCIL APPOINTING PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 42(1) I am tabling Order in Council P.C. 1982-670 appointing several parliamentary secretaries, effective Monday next.

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[Translation]

ENERGY SECURITY ACT, 1982

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-94, to establish the Energy Security Act, 1982.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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[English]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Jim Peterson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 2,264, 3,302, 3,684, 3,685 and 3,721.

[Text]

MATERNITY BENEFITS

Question No. 2,264—**Mr. Herbert:**

1. In the last year, how many pregnant women were drawing unemployment insurance benefits and were not entitled to regular benefits during confinement?

2. Does the government consider that from eight weeks before the week of the confinement until six weeks after the confinement women are incapable of and unavailable for work?

3. For what period is an unemployed woman not entitled to regular benefits during confinement and is a woman who is available for work and actively seeking employment two weeks after confinement subject to a change in this period?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): 1. In 1980 a total of 107,336 women were drawing unemployment insurance benefits during confinement.