

Inquiries of the Ministry

Queen have received a document in reply headed "Publications, Information Canada" and stating "publication permanently out of stock". Will the minister look into this to find out whether this is another step along the way to demoting the monarchy?

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would be very glad to receive from the right hon. gentleman the communication from which he has read and to look into the matter immediately.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE THAT INCENTIVE GRANTS NOT BEING USED TO UNDERMINE LUGGAGE INDUSTRY

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might ask for your indulgence before asking my question to refer to the presence in your gallery of a former member of this House, now the Premier of Newfoundland, and a distinguished delegation from the Newfoundland government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McGrath: My question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Can he assure the House that funds under the Regional Development Incentives Act are not being used to undermine the luggage industry in Canada through grants being paid to companies that are importing cheap luggage into the country?

• (1430)

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I read the same piece of news, Mr. Speaker, and I have just asked the department to inquire about it. This was the first time I heard about it. I do not know whether the situation is as described. As soon as I receive a report I will tell the hon. member.

Mr. McGrath: By way of a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, and in view of the interest of some of my hon. friends in the affairs of the minister and his department, would he agree to appear before the committee this week even though he is not scheduled to appear until next week?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): My appearance before the committee has been arranged by the steering committee, and I am going to follow that arrangement, Mr. Speaker.

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POST OFFICE

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNIONS—
PRESENTATION OF FORMAL OFFER BY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. In the talks with the postal unions has the government in fact made a formal offer on wages and job security?

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, that question ought properly to be addressed to the President of the Treasury Board.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

BANGLADESH—ESTABLISHMENT OF FACILITIES IN
DACCA FOR CANADIAN PLENIPOTENTIARY

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a question. Inasmuch as the distinguished High Commissioner for Bangladesh has arrived in Ottawa, can the minister report on whether or not facilities have been acquired in Dacca for the Canadian plenipotentiary to perform his duties, and when that official will in fact be performing his duties in Dacca?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I shall have to take the question as notice. I am not certain whether our new High Commissioner has yet appeared in Dacca. As the hon. member knows, there is a double accreditation to this post.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

INCENTIVE GRANT TO MICHELIN TIRE—NUMBER OF NEW
JOBS

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the conflict between his department's figure of 1,278 new jobs for the Michelin plant expansion which his department is assisting and Premier Regan's estimate of 700 new jobs, can the minister tell the House which figure is correct and exactly how many new jobs are expected?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I think that the apparent contradiction has been explained by Premier Regan. If the hon. member takes the trouble to read the second press release, he will realize that the statistics of the department are right.

[English]

INCENTIVE GRANT TO MICHELIN TIRE—POSSIBLE
EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES FOR CERTAIN
IMPORTS

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. Has the Michelin Tire Company been granted an exemption from customs duties for certain imports? If so, when was this put into effect, is it now in effect, when will it expire, and has there been any change in the status of the exemption?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the government has not authorized any duty-free entry of