

Inquiries of the Ministry

and 25,000 illegal abortions took place in the province of Quebec compared with 181 legal abortions?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am wondering whether it is sufficient merely to ask whether a minister has received a report. Perhaps the hon. member might like to rephrase her question.

Mrs. MacInnis: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase it and ask a supplementary. In view of the report of le Centre de Planning Familial du Québec to the effect that during the past 12 months there have been an estimated 10,000 to 25,000 illegal abortions in that province compared with 181 legal abortions, when does he intend to change the law to permit women to obtain legal instead of illegal abortions?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have the impression this question has been asked on a number of occasions. If the minister feels he has anything to add to his earlier answers he might be allowed to reply now.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): I have nothing to add, Mr. Speaker, except to say I cannot accept the preamble to the report, which I have not read, but because of the insistence of the hon. lady I will read the report.

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[Translation]

HIGHWAYS**MONTREAL—EAST-WEST AUTO ROUTE—DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN OTTAWA AND QUEBEC**

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State.

Can he tell the House whether there have been official negotiations between his department and the Quebec Roads Department with regard to the construction of East-West Expressway in Montreal?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): No, Mr. Speaker, there have been no official negotiations. So far, there have only been unofficial talks through third parties.

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[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS**ASSISTANCE IN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
RAILWAYS AND UNIONS TO AVOID INTERRUPTION
OF GRAIN SHIPMENTS**

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, in view of the critical importance of uninterrupted shipments of grain at this time, what steps, if any, is the Minister of Labour taking to assist in the current negotiations between the railways and the unions?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, at the request of both parties we have placed at their disposal the efforts of Mr. Kelly and Mr. Gibbons of our special mediation department. I am very encouraged that the request has come from both management and labour. This indicates that both sides are approaching collective bargaining in the right spirit.

[Mrs. MacInnis.]

POST OFFICE**RESTORATION OF SATURDAY MAIL DELIVERY IN LIGHT
OF MASS MEDIA REPORT**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General of Canada. In light of the searing but sensible strictures against the abolition of Saturday mail delivery made by the Davey Committee, can he advise whether steps are in progress or in contemplation to accept the findings of this careful study and to restore to Canadian people six-day mail delivery?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, my colleague will undoubtedly answer that question tomorrow.

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DRUGS**PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOL—AUTHORITY OF
CANADIAN DELEGATES TO CONVENTION**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, over the past week we have asked the Minister of National Health and Welfare to clarify the relationship between Canada's participation in the Geneva protocol and the Le Dain Commission. I am afraid we have not received the assurance we would like. May I therefore—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should ask his question.

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Speaker, I will reword the question. Can the minister now state what our commitment at the conference will be, and can he assure the House that Canada will not sign the protocol?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as I have already indicated to the hon. member, the intention of the Canadian government is to listen and participate in the discussion and to do nothing that will prejudice its position prior to receiving the final report of the Le Dain Commission.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS**SUGGESTED PROVISION OF JOBS IN PUBLIC SERVICE
FOR FORMER LAPALME EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In honour of the Christmas season, would the Prime Minister use his good offices to settle the Lapalme issue by restoring these workers to civil service jobs with full seniority rights? It is mighty cold outside.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South.