

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes.

Mr. McKenzie: What measures are being taken to ensure that medical standards and the job security of hospital staff will be maintained by the province?

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, this precaution is taken. Before the hospital is transferred to the other party we will certainly have this assurance.

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MANPOWER

REQUEST FOR TOLL FREE TELEPHONE SERVICE TO CERTAIN CENTRES

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and it is very important to the people in my riding. Would the minister indicate whether or not he has considered installing a toll free telephone service to the Canada Manpower Centres, especially in such areas as the Hastings riding where some employers are 100 miles away from the Canada Manpower Centre?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will give the hon. member's representation due consideration.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

OPPOSITION OF CANADIAN TEACHERS FEDERATION TO TRANSFER OF RIGHTS TO FILM AND VIDEOTAPE TO PRIVATE COMPANY

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State when he intends to meet with the Canadian Teachers Federation to discuss that body's brief opposing the granting of rights to the CBC film and videotape library to a private distribution company?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I have an invitation to attend the meeting but I cannot remember that we agreed to a date. I will report to the hon. member.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will be allowed a supplementary question and then I will recognize the hon. member for Norfolk-Haldimand.

Mr. Rose: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since there have been a great number of objections from school districts and teachers organizations to granting to a private distribution company the right to rent films and tapes that were paid for out of public funds, has the minister given any consideration to setting up a Crown distribution corporation or, alternatively, having the films distributed through provincial audio-visual services.

Mr. Faulkner: Not yet, Mr. Speaker.

Oral Questions

FLOODS

DAMAGE CAUSED BY HIGH WATER LEVELS OF GREAT LAKES—REQUEST FOR COMPENSATION

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as the substance of my question relates to several departments of the government, I will direct it to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the abnormally high water levels on the Great Lakes have caused flooding and erosion of catastrophic proportions resulting in the loss of farmland, dwellings and harbour installations, what steps is the government prepared to take to compensate financially those individuals and municipalities who have suffered such a grievous loss?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, without getting into the question of compensation, because that is a matter to be discussed and established, I would say that the government is making a real effort to co-ordinate the actions of the various departments involved. A minister has been appointed in the person of the Minister of the Environment to co-ordinate these policies and to respond.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are only two or three minutes left before the end of the question period. We could use them for supplementary questions but my thought is that perhaps we should allow a few hon. members on the back benches to ask questions.

• (1520)

Mr. Nesbitt: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, this flooding is a matter of great urgency to hon. members and also to the province of Ontario. I know that a number of hon. members have supplementary questions to ask, and I hope Your Honour will see some of the other hon. members who are involved in this matter.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Chair could be allowed to recognize the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek.

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GRAIN

LOW FINAL PAYMENTS—POSSIBLE LOSS TO FARMERS RESULTING FROM WHEAT BOARD'S DEALINGS IN STERLING

Mr. Frank Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. It is not a supplementary question. In view of the surprisingly low final payment announced yesterday on wheat and oats, with no payment on barley, can the minister tell the House if western farmers have had to absorb the loss resulting from the Canadian Wheat Board's unhedged and unprotected sterling balance when Great Britain devalued her currency during that pool year? Knowledgeable people in the trade have estimated that this has cost the farmers many millions of dollars.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, let me say fairly simply but directly that the suggestion is