before it decided to refuse to admit the letter as evidence at recent National Energy Board hearings, and can he further advise the House why this important piece of documentation was refused and under whose instructions it was refused as evidence?

● (1500)

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I did not in any way refuse to allow that piece of documentation to go forward to the National Energy Board.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is recognized for one supplementary question.

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, I am not asking a supplementary, but repeating my request. The minister did not answer my question. The letter was received by National Energy Board from the deputy minister of the environment. My question is, why did the National Energy Board refuse to consider the letter as evidence at the hearing, and was the minister aware that the National Energy Board refused to consider such documentation?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the details on a day-to-day basis of National Energy Board decisions of this kind. I think the hon. member will recognize that the National Energy Board, as a quasi judicial body, has a great deal of independence for the making of its own decisions.

Mr. Cossitt: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to do with the reply of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Andras) to the question I asked him regarding the defrauding of the Unemployment Insurance Commission and when further charges would be laid. He advised the House that the making public of such details could possibly prejudice an investigation in progress. We all share that sentiment, but my point of order is this. I am sure the minister did not intend to mislead the House intentionally. I should tell the House that as 1.15 this afternoon I was informed by sources in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that the investigation was complete and the raising of it in this House would in no way prejudice the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. De Bané: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order and I ask the House to give unanimous consent for a question to be asked of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) concerning the tragedy in Lebanon. I am sure all hon. members of the House would grant me the indulgence to ask that question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is clear that such a procedure would depart entirely from the practices we follow on a daily basis. Every day members wish to ask questions which are urgent to them, to their interests or the interests of their constituencies, and each day a number of members fail, in the ordinary course of rotation, to gain the floor. I suggest that if such a question is asked at this time, it should be entirely understood that it is only done with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent for the hon. member to ask the extra question on the subject indicated at this time?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is not unanimous consent.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

AGRICULTURE

Fifteenth report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture—Mr. Daudlin.

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

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

TABLING OF LAW REFORM COMMISSION REPORT ON SUNDAY OBSERVANCE

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(1), I wish to table in both official language copies of the Law Reform Commission Report on Sunday Observance.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

CANCELLATION OF OPTION TO BUY LOCKHEED "ORION" AIRCRAFT

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, at a meeting of the cabinet held yesterday evening it was agreed that the Lockheed Corporation should be informed immediately that the government would only be able to proceed with the purchase of 18 Lockheed long range patrol aircraft if the Lockheed Corporation could provide the required bridge financing.

It was agreed by cabinet as well that if the Lockheed Corporation could provide the required bridge financing, the government would proceed with the purchase of 18 LRPA aircraft from Lockheed.

Yesterday evening, following the cabinet meeting, my colleague, the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer), who has the responsibility of negotiating the contract on behalf of the government, met with Mr. Bill Wilson, executive vice-president of the Lockheed Corporation, and informed him of the government's decision. Mr. Wilson advised the Minister of Supply and Services that Lockheed was unable to provide the required bridge financing, and for that reason the government has now abandoned its plans to complete that specific purchase contract with Lockheed.

Mr. Leggatt: It's about time.