

Oral Questions

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF DATE FOR
COMPLETION OF COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF
ESTIMATES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the government House leader with respect to the requirement under Standing Order 58(14) that committee reports pertaining to estimates have to be in by the end of this month. In view of the difficulty that members of the committee are having in completing their work, particularly the committee dealing with DREE but also others, the difficulty in part being due to the problems my hon. friend's colleagues have in manning the committees and also the difficulties in getting information, would the minister be prepared to consider any means of postponing this requirement in order to enable committees to complete their work properly?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to consider any reasonable request but I am certainly not prepared at the moment to say that a change would be made. However, I will consider it.

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AGRICULTURE

SEIZURE OF MANITOBA EGGS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—
EFFECT ON INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Since on Tuesday, May 22, British Columbia tried once again to seize a shipment of Manitoba eggs, and in view of the fact that a serious problem is developing in the area of interprovincial trade in Canada, can the minister inform the House what progress has been made primarily under the National Farm Products Marketing Act in solving this?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I think the dispute is between the British Columbia Egg Marketing Board and the egg broker, for whom I do not have much sympathy nor, I think, does the egg producer and egg consumer have any sympathy for him. He is trying to make a buck. I met with the national egg group this morning and I am sure they will have a proper working body, hopefully by the end of June.

Mr. Murta: Since the National Farm Marketing Council was formed, in part at least, to correct marketing disputes such as we have seen, can the minister inform the House exactly what success, if any, the council has had in solving what could become a very serious problem for interprovincial trade in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether this question is in order. The hon. member is asking for an interpretation of the legal authority of a government or departmental agency. I think a question in those terms is not in order.

[Mr. Speaker.]

HARBOURS

CHURCHILL—REQUEST FOR REFERENCE OF STUDY ON
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT TO TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary to a previous question with regard to the National Harbours Board. In the absence of the Minister of Transport, I should like to ask the parliamentary secretary if he has had a chance to consult with the minister to see if we can have the study on the future development of the port of Churchill referred to the Transport Committee for action?

Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. In view of the activities of the members of the committee, who are doing an extremely good job, I will be most pleased to request the minister to do just that. I hope it will be the case.

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MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—POSSIBLE ERROR IN
UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS USED AS BASIS FOR
EXTENSION OF PROJECTS

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, but in his absence I will address it to his parliamentary secretary. I hope I get more than the standard reply that he will take it as notice. In view of the minister's announcement that local initiatives projects in areas where unemployment is above 6.8 per cent will be eligible for extension up to November 30, and in view of the fact that Statistics Canada does not provide unemployment figures on such local areas and that Manpower's calculations of area unemployment have a statistical error rate varying from 15 to 30 per cent, does the minister intend to review this policy so that worth-while LIP projects seeking extension will not be disadvantaged by the lack of accurate figures?

Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member were aware of the fact that the minister last week announced a further extension of LIP projects I do not think this question would arise.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are coming to or have reached the end of the question period, but perhaps the Chair might be allowed to recognize one or two members, the hon. member for Yukon, the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta and perhaps another member in the back row.