

*Oral Questions*

House when he expects that bilateral negotiations on the terms of the 1977 IJC report will begin?

**Mr. MacGuigan:** Madam Speaker, this is part of the same picture. We have the assurance of the U.S. government that no money will be spent in a way which will advance the Garrison project detrimentally to Canada.

**Mr. Knowles:** Do you believe that?

**Mr. MacGuigan:** I say to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that we are seeking details so that we can be publicly assured as to how the money is being spent and be able to judge for ourselves whether or not this is the case.

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[*Translation*]

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****PROMPT DELIVERY OF CHEQUES TO RECIPIENTS**

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration, but in his absence I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary. The recent strike created havoc in unemployment insurance offices and the current backlog is creating problems for those who are entitled to unemployment insurance and who are still waiting for their cheques. In view of the estimation which the department did, no doubt, of the situation, can the parliamentary secretary tell us whether special measures will be taken in the next 24 hours to help those who are still waiting for their benefits?

**Mr. Dennis Dawson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, as I told the hon. member for Manicouagan last week, the problem has nothing to do with the distribution of cheques, as it may be the case in the province of Quebec in connection with welfare and the postal strike. It is a matter of issuing the cheques. While the clerks were on strike, unfortunately, no cheques were printed. Since last week they have been working overtime and most of the cheques were issued or will be within hours or days. I am quite confident that before the weekend or the middle of next week most cases will have been dealt with. In cases where serious financial problems are being experienced, the social affairs department in Quebec can help out the people concerned, but on an individual basis.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF EMERGENCY FUND**

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, I have received an important telegram from Montreal; it is self-explanatory. The emergency committee receives hundreds of requests because the responsible social bodies cannot meet the demand, which means that the people concerned are penniless. Can the parliamentary secretary at least indicate to us wheth-

er he is willing to recommend to the minister that a very special emergency be set up, in view of the unbelievable problems those people are now up against, not only in Montreal but throughout the province of Quebec as well as in my riding?

**Mr. Dennis Dawson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration):** As we know, Madam Speaker, all the welfare services of the province of Quebec are authorized, and have the necessary funds, to meet urgent problems. With regard to the unemployment insurance benefits, as those cheques are not sent out on a regular basis like pensions, or in a fixed monthly amount—some employees receive a cheque for \$150 one month and \$75 another—it is impossible for our department to say it will put out cheques in an equal amount for everyone. Each case has to be dealt with individually. That is the cause of the delay in some cases. But in all cases of hardship, the Quebec social affairs department must meet the needs. Other volunteer organizations, other sources of financial assistance, can help out those people in cases of emergency. Unfortunately, our department is not set up to solve that type of problem: that is a provincial responsibility.

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[*English*]

**CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION****REGULATION RESPECTING USE OF METRIC SYSTEM FOR HOUSE PLANS**

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Madam Speaker, I direct my question to the minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. I understand it is government policy that in order for an individual to be eligible to apply for a CMHC mortgage loan, all the house plans must be in metric. Does that regulation apply to all the provinces or are there currently certain sections of the country that are exempt from such a regulation? If, indeed, there are certain provinces which are not bound by the regulation at the present time, would the minister explain to the House why some provinces are bound by the regulation while others are not?

**Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, my information is that the requirement of the corporation is one that is national in scope. I stand to be corrected, and I will look into the matter. I might add that I have received praise as well as criticism as a result of the difficulty caused. On the other hand, people and groups in the industry, associations, builders and so on, have said that it is a good move and they have complimented the corporation on that course of action.

**Mr. Darling:** Madam Speaker, the minister is undoubtedly aware that not all those in the business of selling homes have plans available in metric. Many of them have plans that are only available in the imperial measure. Is the government prepared to make concessions at all for those dealers who do