

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mrs. MacInnis: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I do not want the minister to get me wrong in any way. He knows I am interested in finding out what his program is to make day-care centres permanent. Again I ask him, does he intend to provide funding for day-care centres beyond the next four months of the Local Initiatives Program?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, the hon. lady has devoted more time than anyone I know, and I say this sincerely, to getting such a program implemented, and she ought to know that when such a program becomes a permanent feature of Canadian life the announcement will be made by the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

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POST OFFICE

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNIONS—
PRESENTATION OF FORMAL OFFER BY GOVERNMENT

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board. Can he inform the House whether the government has yet made a formal offer on wages and job security in the talks with the postal unions?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I think the Postmaster General addressed himself to this question last week. I would repeat again that it is at the express request of the Council of Postal Unions that the detailed progress of the negotiations has not been published.

Mr. Dinsdale: Is the government going to ask the Minister of Labour to offer his special mediators to help prepare a new contract with the postal unions before the situation deteriorates into an impasse?

• (1450)

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, all services of which we can avail ourselves will be used to prevent an impasse occurring.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

EXAMINATION OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING RIGHT OF EMPLOYEES TO PARTICIPATE IN
POLITICS

Mr. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Is the minister examining the recommendations of the first report of the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts on the Ann Booth case concerning the rights of civil servants to participate in political affairs?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, this is a rather difficult question and I have instructed the Treasury Board staff to make a review of

[Mr. Speaker.]

what is done in this respect in other jurisdictions to see what can be done to clarify the situation.

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FISHERIES

ATLANTIC SALMON—SUGGESTED BOYCOTT OF DANISH
GOODS

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries. Can he advise whether he has yet had time to evaluate the efficacy of his call for a domestic boycott of Danish goods? Also is he in a position to indicate the response of the Danish government to this retaliatory move?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I do not have any comment.

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FINANCE

INQUIRY AS TO PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY
AND INCREASE INCOMES OF FISHERMEN

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. Since neither the announced fast write-off of two years on machinery and equipment nor the reduction to 40 per cent in the top rate of corporate tax on manufacturing and processing income applies directly to our fishermen, would the minister indicate what new programs he plans to implement to improve productivity and to raise the incomes of our fishermen, as stated in his budget speech?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think that such a general statement ought to be made on motions. If the minister wants to indicate whether he plans to make this kind of statement on motions, the question will be allowed on that basis.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, would the minister make a statement on motions clarifying his position on this matter?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I made a speech last night, but I will be glad to see what I can do to clarify the situation for the hon. member.

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TAXATION

INQUIRY AS TO MEASURES TO ASSIST AGRICULTURE

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Finance. Can he tell the House and the country, as he has a group studying taxation as it applies to agriculture, that this group is not sterile of ideas and that he will be coming forward with a budgetary statement soon which will be of benefit to the agricultural industry?