COMMUNICATIONS

JURISDICTION OVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING—FEDERAL POSITION

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. In light of the fact that Quebec and Ontario now claim varying degrees of jurisdiction over telecommunications and broadcasting, is the government sticking to the position that the federal government has clear authority over broadcasting, including cable television, or is it going to consider this as an area of concurrent jurisdiction? In order to avoid asking a supplementary question, may I ask whether some conference will be arranged to resolve this policy anomaly?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I believe the first part of the question does not call for an answer in absolute terms. I think the hon. member will agree with me: for instance, to state that broadcasting falls within the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government or within the exclusive jurisdiction of the provincial governments, does not make sense considering the nature of our modern means of communications.

Concerning the second half of the question, I would say that we are willing—as we have stated so many times—to consult with the provinces after having, however, established—and intending to establish it even more specifically—that we consider some points of federal jurisdiction as being non-negotiable.

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[*English*]

GRAIN

SEPARATION OF TRANSITIONAL PAYMENT FROM STABILIZATION PLAN BILL

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the very strong objections voiced by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to Bill C-244, the grain stabilization plan, and its recommendation that the transitional payment be separated from the permanent plan, is the government now considering separating these two features of Bill C-244?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I disagree with the first comments of the hon. member. It has been made perfectly clear that the various portions of Bill C-244 stand together as a whole and must proceed as a whole in the view of the government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that we should not transpose the question period by referring to debates which are progressing and proceeding to some extent in the House. I believe that after orders of the day are called the bill to which the hon. member has alluded will be considered by the House. I doubt whether it is in order to use the time of the question period to ask this kind of a question.

Mr. Burton: I have a supplementary question.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will allow a supplementary question but I hope it is acceptable from a procedural standpoint.

Mr. Burton: My supplementary question is designed to facilitate consideration of the bill. In view of the widespread public interest in Bill C-244, will the minister facilitate steps to ensure that witnesses will be heard when the bill is before the committee?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that this again anticipates an order of the day and that the question in those terms is not in order.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister whether it will be necessary to have the difficulties in respect of Bill C-176 resolved by legislation, by decision of the Supreme Court, or by making funds available under Bill C-244 before he will call a by-election in Assiniboia?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Edmonton West.

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IMMIGRATION

INQUIRY AS TO TABLING OF WHITE PAPER—AMENDMENTS AFFECTING IMMIGRATION APPEAL BOARD

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether he is in a position to tell us that he is going to bring forward his white paper on immigration and amendments to the Immigration Appeal Board Act before the end of June?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I indicated not long ago in answer to a question regarding legislation at least that I hoped so. There has been no decision yet as to the date by which it may be possible to bring forward a policy statement regarding immigration in the broad sense.

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FISHERIES

TREATMENT OF RIVERS FLOWING INTO GEORGIAN BAY AND LAKE HURON WITH LAMPRICIDE

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry whether streams and rivers flowing into Georgian Bay and Lake Huron will be treated with lampricide this year? If not, what areas are receiving attention for lamprey control, and are sufficient funds available to cope adequately with the problem?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I do not know the answer to that question but I will endeavour to get it to the hon. member as quickly as possible.