

an agreement with Canada to purchase a CANDU reactor? Can the minister advise if safeguard procedures have been agreed upon with that government and if so, what they are?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, the answer is not yet.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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#### POST OFFICE

##### POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF AUTOMATION IN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Postmaster General which arises from the extreme sensitivity of the contract negotiations now under way with postal employees and the possible importance of technological change in these negotiations? Can the Postmaster General give assurance that automation will be included in the negotiations?

• (1530)

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, my personal philosophy is that the effects of automation should be a subject for negotiation with employees. We are now in the middle of collective bargaining and it is during a period of negotiations that anything is possible. But it takes two to tango and the union in question has to show a propensity for bargaining in good faith.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. gentleman included automation in his amendments to the Labour Code when he was minister responsible for that department, would he now use his influence to ensure that this important principle is included in the current negotiations with the post office workers, particularly as it has been publicly said by the employees that this inclusion is essential to any settlement.

**Mr. Mackasey:** Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, the particular set of rules under which the Post Office negotiates are now before a special joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons. This matter is topical and changes no doubt will be brought forward in the area soon. I, personally, hope that this progressive type of legislation introduced in the Labour Code will be extended to public servants.

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#### MANPOWER

##### INQUIRY AS TO ADOPTION OF CLUSTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BY PACIFIC REGION

**Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Has the Pacific region of the Department of Manpower and Immigration adopted the cluster management system for Canada manpower

centres within the region. If not, is it intended that the Pacific region of the Department of Manpower and Immigration will implement the cluster system?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I will have to take notice of that very interesting question.

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#### VETERANS AFFAIRS

##### GOVERNMENT POSITION ON HERMANN REPORT

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the reply given by the minister to my question of January 29, would the minister state unequivocally what is the government's position on the Hermann report and if there are any recommendations in that report which are not acceptable to the government.

**Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan):** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The guidelines which have been well respected for some time and which relate to the question period call for questions to be brief and for answers to be reasonably brief. The hon. member has put forward a question which would require a very extensive answer on the part of the minister. The hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek.

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#### REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

##### PROPOSED UPGRADING OF COMMUNICATIONS IN REMOTE AREAS

**Mr. Frank Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Is serious consideration being given by officials in his department to the use of DREE funds to upgrade and promote communications, particularly television, in some of the more sparsely settled areas of our country.

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, the only direct request or representation I have had so far on this matter, other than individual requests like those of the hon. member, have been within the province of Ontario where, as he may know, reference was made prior to Christmas to intentions by the government of Ontario with regard to expanding a communication network into some of the more remote regions of the province, and the possibility of DREE involvement in that kind of project is being considered. I assume that could be begun as a kind of pilot project. In principle, I see no reason why agreements with the provinces should not be entered to cover some forms of communication under the heading of infrastructure.

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#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

##### TRAINING COURSES FOR RECIPIENTS OF BENEFITS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Manpower and