

HEALTH

ABORTIONS—INQUIRY AS TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
INVESTIGATION OF FACILITIES AVAILABLE

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Some time ago it was reported in the Ottawa newspapers that officials in his department had been concerned about the number of abortions that were taking place in this country and that was to be looked into. I want to ask the minister whether he is also having his officials investigate the number of hospitals in this country which have refused to set up abortion committees and the number of areas in which there are no abortion facilities available for Canadian women?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): No, Mr. Speaker. That would not come within the responsibilities of the Minister of Justice.

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AGRICULTURE

CROP INSURANCE—DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF
AMENDING LEGISLATION

Mr. William C. Frank (Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Due to the urgent need for crop insurance agents in the various provinces to write up crop insurance for this present season, when does the minister propose to introduce for second reading the crop insurance amendment bill providing for the payment of 50 per cent of the farmer's premium by the federal government?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, what the hon. member says is true. Quite a few of the provincial ministers have made representations. I have had some consultations with the government House leader and he may be able to throw a little more light on when the bill may be brought before the House than I can, Mr. Speaker.

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POWER

CHURCHILL RIVER DIVERSION—REQUEST FOR
STOPPAGE OF WORK UNTIL LICENCE ISSUED UNDER
NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION ACT

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. As promised by the hon. gentleman on March 8, is he now in a position to report on the status of the licence application by the province of Manitoba for regulating South Indian Lake and the similar application for regulating Lake Winnipeg?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I have not received the report. I will check my desk and perhaps find it there. The hon. member must excuse me, but I will give the answer tomorrow.

Oral Questions

Mr. Dinsdale: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the hon. gentleman assure the House that he will take the necessary steps to prevent further action on these projects before a licence is issued?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think I will answer that question at the same time as I answer the first question.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION AMENDING
VARIOUS STATUTES GOVERNING EMPLOYEES

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the difficulties and importance attached by public servants to the introduction of amendments to various statutes, as promised in the Speech from the Throne, has the minister, in view of this interest, had an opportunity to consult with the House leader and can he tell the House when these amendments might be brought forward to be considered by this House?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I have discussed this with the House leader and the response I have is, soon.

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[Translation]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

ALLEGED DETENTION OF TWO ESKIMOS IN PREVILLE
HOSPITAL—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. John Harney (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, as a week has passed since the hon. Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development told me he would answer my question the next day, could I ask him today, once again, if he has asked the officers of his department to ascertain the situation of the Eskimos at the Preville Hospital in Brossard?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, on two occasions last week I tried to rise and answer the question, but unfortunately I could not get the floor.

I am happy to answer today. A nurse went with an interpreter to the Preville Hospital. The two Eskimo patients who are there are well treated and the report is that the situation should not be changed. However, we will follow all possible developments and if the patients are not comfortable there, they will be moved to another hospital.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will call on the hon. member for Mackenzie, and then call Orders of the Day.