

located in either Toronto or Montreal but, indeed, in many other Canadian communities from coast to coast?

Mr. Fleming: Madam Speaker, some agencies must be of a size and competence to deal with national advertising. But we have already begun to do our best to give opportunities to agencies across Canada for them to have access to Government of Canada advertising.

An hon. Member: You have been in the business; you should know.

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AGRICULTURE

CREATION OF MARKETING BOARDS—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture. Is it government policy that a commodity group can, by a proper election, vote to create a marketing board?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, if I understood the hon. member's question correctly, the answer is yes.

Mr. Thacker: That being so, Madam Speaker, my supplementary is also to the Minister of Agriculture. Can those same commodity groups vote to withdraw from those same marketing boards?

Mr. Whelan: Madam Speaker, I believe there is provision in most agreements. I believe if they give one year's notice, they can withdraw.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

STATUS OF WOMEN—EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, my question is to the President of the Treasury Board. In light of the fact that investigators for the Canadian Human Rights Commission have found that 3,000 jobs filled mainly by women are almost identical in value to those filled by men in the general services group of the PSAC, and that these people are receiving as much as \$1.80 per hour less, is the minister now willing to take the principle of equal pay for work of equal value seriously by acting on the investigators' report, and guarantee that women public servants receive equal pay for work of equal value, and ensure that public employees do not have to drag the federal government before the Human Rights Commission again and again in order to achieve these goals?

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, we are aware of approximately six complaints of this kind. I believe one has been settled. The specific case to which the hon. member makes reference is now the subject of discussion between the Treasury Board

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secretariat and the Human Rights commissioners. We will be discussing what options are available for a proper and satisfactory settlement of the complaint in question.

Mr. Murphy: Madam Speaker, it is nice to hear the minister admit that he is aware of some of the problems within his own federal civil service, but what I am concerned about is that the government is not taking leadership in this matter.

Will the minister admit that the oldest and surest indicator of equality is remuneration for work, and thus will the government begin its campaign for equality by offering leadership? One of the ways of doing this is by making sure that the lowest paid groups in the public service, the clerical component, receive a more equalizing increase than the 5 per cent that has been offered at the present time, an offer which is insulting in that it does not meet the cost of living and does nothing but increase the wage differential between men and women in this country.

● (1450)

Mr. Johnston: Madam Speaker, the hon. member is now on another subject. I would point out that section 11 of the Canadian Human Rights Act establishing that principle in legislation was an initiative of this government in the past, so I do not know what he means by not taking a lead. I would say the government has very much taken the lead.

In so far as the other matter is concerned—that is, the clerical and regulatory group—as the hon. member knows from an answer I gave in this House last week, we hope to bring that particular dispute to a fair and equitable settlement in the relatively near future.

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TRANSPORT

TRUCKING OF GRAIN FROM MANITOBA TO THUNDER BAY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. Previously, I asked in a motion under Standing Order 43 what the government's position was relative to the trucking of grain from Manitoba to Thunder Bay. What is the government's position as to the trucking of grain, and will it be continued after June 1?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, the Canadian Wheat Board has informed me that they are monitoring this movement, but at the moment they do not consider the movement to be of sufficient volume to warrant a change in their policy on delivery quotas.

Mr. Epp: Madam Speaker, do I, then, have the assurance from the minister that there will be no change on June 1, 1980?

Mr. Pepin: Not to my knowledge, Madam Speaker, but I will look into it further to make absolutely sure.