

Prevention of Spread of Plant Pests

for Easter, can he advise the house whether he has a recent report relating to the labour problems on the Montreal waterfront?

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have not yet received the conciliation board report. As I mentioned the other evening, the judge has been given a few days' extension by both parties since he has worked solidly for almost one week on the commission. I would say, however, that after reviewing the various proposals advanced by the judge there is hope that a collective agreement will be reached. I am optimistic that the matter will be settled amicably.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

ACTIVITIES OF U.S.S.R. NAVAL UNITS IN NORTH ATLANTIC

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence and has to do with a question I asked him last Friday which he said he would take as notice. At that time I asked the minister if he had any reliable information as to the purposes of reportedly large Russian naval movements in the North Atlantic?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, since our forces have in the past often come under the surveillance of Russian naval and air elements we have found it courteous to reciprocate the gesture.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have reached the end of the question period. However, I believe the hon. member for Vegreville has a supplementary question concerning tomatoes and cucumbers. Perhaps he might be allowed to ask it.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE OF C.N.R. AND AIR CANADA ANNUAL REPORTS—SUGGESTED MOTION

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the government house leader would clarify a confusing situation and say whether he intends to proceed with a motion asking for a house order to refer the reports of Air Canada and Canadian National Railways to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, I had extensive consultations and it was my understanding that there was

[Mr. Allmand.]

agreement on this matter. I discovered yesterday that there was no agreement and I shall have to consult further to see if we can find some way to resolve current difficulties.

Mr. Schreyer: I have a further point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I doubt that the hon. member has a point of order. Perhaps he might discuss the matter with the minister outside the house.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**AGRICULTURE**

PREVENTION OF INTRODUCTION OR SPREAD OF PLANT PESTS—CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENT

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture) moved the second reading of and concurrence in the amendment made by the Senate to Bill C-154, to prevent the introduction or spreading of pests injurious to plants.

Motion agreed to, amendment read the second time and concurred in.

AGRICULTURE

COMPENSATION FOR CONTAMINATION BY PESTICIDE RESIDUE—NON-CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENT

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture) moved:

That a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint Their Honours that this House disagrees with the amendment made by the Senate to Bill C-155, An Act to provide compensation to farmers whose agricultural products are contaminated by pesticide residue, and to provide for appeals from compensation awards, for the following reason:

The amendment changes the principle of the Bill so that compensation is payable even if the pesticide residue resulted through the fault of a pesticide manufacturer or another person. It makes it a responsibility of the Minister to pay and carry court action against a third party. It would also remove the precise requirement that the Minister may require a farmer to take action to reduce losses before paying compensation, such as washing, trimming, changes in storage etc. If this requirement is removed, it would substantially increase the costs involved in applying the provisions of the legislation. The amendment would also increase the possibility of marginal or frivolous claims.

● (3:30 p.m.)

He said: Mr. Speaker, I shall take only a minute or two to explain this motion because