

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Cooper: A supplementary question. Could I have an assurance that since Biggar is more affected than almost any town between Saskatoon and Edmonton, there will be a hearing held in Biggar, Saskatchewan?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): The question of the location of hearings is in the hands of Mr. Justice Freedman, who I am sure would listen to any representations made to him from these communities with regard to the hearings.

SHIPPING**ST. LAWRENCE RIVER—WINTER USE BY
RUSSIAN SHIPS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. Lloyd (Halifax): I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Press reports indicate that the fleet of icebreaker-ice reinforced cargo ships scheduled for winter service on the St. Lawrence river to Montreal will be augmented this winter by Russian cargo carriers. Will the minister inform the house whether the government is considering any measures to maintain and equalize the competitive position of the ports of Halifax and Saint John in view of the increasing use of Montreal as a winter port?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I have heard reports that these Soviet ships are to attempt to come up the St. Lawrence during the winter time, but no exceptional steps will be taken as far as icebreaking is concerned.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Will the minister give every assurance that there will be no assistance whatever to these Russian ships?

Mr. Pickersgill: It is possible, of course, that a ship might be in distress. Recalling some of the interventions of the hon. gentleman on previous occasions I would be very hesitant about giving any blanket undertaking of that sort. But, as I told the hon. member for Halifax, no measures which would not be taken in the ordinary normal course will be taken as a result of this attempted passage.

Mr. Lloyd: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that Canada has a substantial investment in port facilities in Halifax and Saint John, will the impact of these developments on the revenues and investments of Canada be considered by the government?

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Mr. Pickersgill: They certainly will be, Mr. Speaker; and, as the hon. member knows, we are conducting a very intensive study at the present moment of means of developing further the use of the ports of Halifax and Saint John.

Mr. Fisher: And Montreal.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**HAL BANKS—DISPOSITION OF
BAIL FORFEITED**

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Rémi Paul (Berthier-Maskinongé-Dela-
naudière):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice.

Can he tell us whether an agreement took place between the department of the attorney general of the province of Quebec and his own department as to the appropriation of Hal Banks' \$25,000 bail? If so, what was that agreement?

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to answer that question today, but I will inquire from my officials and I will answer it tomorrow.

[*Text*]

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the national press stories in connection with Hal Banks, the S.I.U. and Liberal members, particularly a story not related to the S.I.U. but one appearing in the Toronto *Star* of November 13 in connection with the administration of the R.C.M.P. in Quebec, would the minister not assure the house that he will cause his estimates to be brought before us at the earliest possible moment so that all these matters can be carefully looked into by the committee?

Mr. Favreau: Of course, Mr. Speaker, my estimates will be brought in as soon as possible, but this is a matter of the business to be called by the government.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the
Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, some weeks ago the Minister of Justice said that as soon as he found out where Mr. Banks was he would let the house know, as I recall it. Has he any information yet that he is in the United States?

Mr. Pearson: He may have left.

Mr. Diefenbaker: No official information.