

Inquiries of the Ministry

Transport. In view of the serious tie-up in ferry traffic over the holiday weekend between Prince Edward Island and the mainland, is the department now prepared to put on sufficient crews to properly man the boats which should be operating, instead of their being tied up at the docks?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, at the time the arrangements were made in this respect I gave an assurance that if it should develop that changes were necessary, we would be very pleased to look into them. If there be need to implement them, I undertake again to do that.

HARBOURS**CHURCHILL, MAN.—TOUR OF PORT FACILITIES BY RUSSIAN DELEGATION**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that the Hudson Bay Route Association has requested that a Russian delegation, including senior officials of the Russian ministry of marine presently touring ports in the St. Lawrence area, also be shown the port facilities at Churchill, is the minister prepared to arrange for such a tour?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have some doubts whether the question can be asked at this time.

FISHERIES**DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT CAUSED BY DRAGGERS**

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries. Would he advise whether the minister has received a report from his officials regarding draggers interfering with the operations of fishermen in northwestern Newfoundland, and if so, could he advise what action the minister is undertaking?

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I will try to answer this question now, so that I do not have to answer it at ten o'clock. We have received a report from the Department of Fisheries vessel m.v. *Garria Bay* which is on duty in the area. The captain has reported to our district director in the area that they have been patrolling at night when the draggers have been endangering the nets of fishermen. There has been very little

[Mr. McQuaid.]

interference, if any. Our district director is going up there this weekend to make personal contact with the people who have made the complaints. We should have a further report at that time.

FINANCE**DISCUSSION OF INTEREST RATES WITH CHARTERED BANKS**

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Can the minister report to the house the results of the meetings he was to hold with the chartered banks near the end of June concerning interest rate levels and monetary matters?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the meeting was a private one. The matter of interest rates has been referred to a parliamentary committee. I trust that representatives of the banks will be appearing before that committee, as well as the governor of the Bank of Canada and other witnesses.

Mr. Burton: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Was the prime loan rate of 8½ per cent announced last Friday, one of the results of that meeting?

Mr. Benson: No, Mr. Speaker.

SPORTS**HOCKEY—MANAGEMENT AT MAPLE LEAF GARDENS**

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Has the minister completed the investigation of Harold Ballard and Stafford Smythe and their relationship to Maple Leaf Gardens? If so, what charges, if any, will be laid?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This also is a question which might very well be considered and debated at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Gilbert: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION**ESTABLISHMENT OF INFORMATION AGENCIES**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board concerning one of his investigative stepchildren, the task force on information. Can he advise