

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. O'Hurley: Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago I said that no official of my department made a press statement. Negotiations on this matter are continuing. This question relates to government policy. I have outlined the policy at various times during the session, and I shall certainly refer to this again when my estimates are once more before the house.

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY**LACHINE CANAL—REPORTED LAY-OFF
OF WORKERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Pratt (Jacques Cartier-Lasalle): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Would the minister care to comment on a report in the newspapers that 38 long-term employees have been laid off from work in connection with the Lachine canal by the St. Lawrence seaway authority, in favour of new men.

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Every possible effort has been made by the Department of Transport, the St. Lawrence seaway authority and the civil service commission to find jobs for these men as soon as possible.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): May I ask a supplementary question. The minister will remember that I myself referred to this matter some time ago. Did the minister not make a statement recently that the Lachine canal would be operated as before? The question now is, why are these men being laid off?

Mr. Hees: The operation of the Lachine canal as a water through-way will be quite limited compared with its operations in the past, and fewer personnel will be required. We will retain just as many men as are required to do the work, and attempt to find employment for the others as quickly as we can.

Mr. Chevrier: But is it necessary to lay off some 40 men?

Mr. Hees: We are not laying off one more man than is absolutely necessary. We like to keep men working, and we do not let them off unless it is absolutely necessary.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS**HALIFAX, N.S.—FUEL USED IN BANK OF
CANADA BUILDING**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. Is it a fact that the minister has requested the Bank of Canada to use coal for heating the new Bank of [Mr. McIlraith.]

Canada building in Halifax, but that the bank is insisting on using oil for heating purposes?

Hon. Paul Comtois (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, in reply to that question I must say that this department has no authority to tell the Bank of Canada to use coal instead of oil. The Bank of Canada is an independent concern.

Mr. Robichaud: A supplementary question. Would the minister advise the house if he has approached the Bank of Canada and asked them to use coal?

Mr. Comtois: Yes, I can answer that. I can say that representations have been made to the Bank of Canada suggesting that coal might be used instead of oil, if it could be used, and the answer from the bank was to the effect that it was not economical, and to a large extent, to use coal instead of oil in that new building in Halifax.

(Translation):

AGRICULTURE**REPORTED DELAY IN RECORD OF
PERFORMANCE TESTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture a question on behalf of the members of the Ayrshire Society of Quebec and the riding of Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm. For what reason has the Department of Agriculture not placed a larger number of herds under the record of performance tests?

(Text):

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture): There are approximately 3,600 herds now on test, of which 126 have been accepted since November 1, 1958. Applications have been received for an additional 60 herds. These will be accepted as soon as arrangements can be made to provide inspection without reducing service below minimum standards to herds now under test. Discussions are now in progress with breed associations for the purpose of revising the policy in such a way as to make it possible to accept promptly new applications which meet the requirements for inspection.

In short, this program has proved so popular that it has been difficult to keep up with all the demands for this type of service.

TRADE**WHEAT—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON EXPORT
PROSPECTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Ottawa West): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of