

harbour in Montreal for one year as a solution to the labour dispute there and whether it is the only means the government is proposing to bring about a settlement in this dispute?

Mr. Speaker: As far as a statement made outside the house is concerned, the hon. member can only ask the Prime Minister whether the minister's statement represents government policy and I think it is what he was suggesting in the first part of his question.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour sometimes takes devious ways to achieve generally happy results; perhaps he was compelling the hon. member to do not only physical exercises, but intellectual exercises as well.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether, with the help of his own intellectual exercises, he has a solution to offer to settle the dispute before the situation deteriorates further?

Mr. Trudeau: I think the hon. member might wish to direct his question to the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the port is in the Prime Minister's constituency, may we take it that it will not be allowed to close?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE INVITATION TO PRESIDENT DE GAULLE

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Arising from the statement made yesterday by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, that the onus is on the government of France to issue an invitation to the Prime Minister to visit France, may I ask the Prime Minister whether as a result of the minister's statement there has been any communication from the French embassy in Ottawa. In other words, has France taken the hint?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, since yesterday I have not had any rapport with my neighbours.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Trudeau: But I must say that it would have to be a pretty pressing invitation because I have just heard that "La Pérouse"

Inquiries of the Ministry

has lost one star, and one of the incentives I had for going to Paris has now gone.

FINANCE

SEARCH IN EUROPE FOR CAPITAL

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Now that the Prime Minister has cleared up that mystery, could he clear up for us the purpose of the visit to Europe of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The minister has gone to Europe to interest various European governments and sectors of the population in the development of the Canadian north from various points of view, —capital investment, immigration, development of various kinds.

Mr. MacInnis: Resign, Benson.

Mr. Trudeau: I guess there is some problem over there, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I just finished asking the Minister of Finance a question and he advised the house that he did not know why the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development was in Europe. The Prime Minister has now given us the answer to the question. I think the Minister of Finance owes us an apology for his answer.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not owe an apology, at all. I simply said that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development was not in Europe borrowing money for the government. As a matter of fact, the exchange reserves of Canada are standing up very well, much to the—

Mr. Hees: Considering the way the government has been run.

Mr. Benson:—consternation of the opposition, and we have no reason for wanting to borrow funds to increase our exchange reserves.

Mr. Stanfield: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I agree that the Minister of Finance does not necessarily have to answer questions directed to him. On the other hand, I do not think he should trespass upon the good nature of the house, and yourself, sir, and make a statement that bears no relation at all to the question directed to him.