

BELL ISLAND, NFLD.—ASSISTANCE TO  
UNEMPLOYED MINERS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate asked me about the situation at Bell island, Newfoundland, and more specifically whether it was the intention of the unemployment insurance commission to establish a branch office there. I can assure him there is no immediate intention of taking such action.

With regard to the present situation at Bell island, I understand it is as follows. It was announced by the Dominion Wabana Ore Company, a division of Dosco, that on March 21 a lay-off of some 550 men would take place. This results from the shutting down of one mine. Below capacity operation has been carried on there since last June.

While there would be no reason for opening a branch office at Bell island, which is only 12 miles from St. John's, the unemployment insurance commission will be sending a team of officers to Bell island to assist those laid off in filling out claims and registering for employment.

Both the hon. member for St. John's West and the hon. member for St. John's East have expressed a continuing interest in this situation, and I should like to inform them as well as the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate that I understand there is a very good possibility of a new iron ore development in Labrador which should get under way in the near future and provide jobs for some of those now being laid off.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate):** May I ask a supplementary question. Will every effort be made by the Department of Labour to see that if further employment is to be made available in Labrador, preference is given to those miners who are now being laid off in the same province?

**Mr. Starr:** I can assure the hon. member of that.

### ATOMIC ENERGY

STRONTIUM 90—EFFECTS OF RADIOACTIVE  
FALL-OUT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I did not contact his office, but perhaps he would take this as notice. Since the strontium 90 content of wheat grown in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota in 1958 has been reported as being 50 per cent over the safe maximum, would the minister say something about this concentration of strontium 90

### Inquiries of the Ministry

in the wheat grown in western Canada, because of health and economic implications? Also I wonder if the minister in replying would give the latest report on the strontium 90 contamination of milk in western Canada.

**Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** I would like to take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker. I have seen the report, but would like to study it closely before replying.

### AIR TRANSPORT

T.C.A.—SUSPENSION OF SERVICE BETWEEN  
VANCOUVER AND VICTORIA

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier):** May I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. It arises out of reports and statements in the press to the effect that T.C.A. intends to suspend its service from Vancouver to Victoria. Would the minister inform the house whether T.C.A. has applied to the air transport board for such suspension, and whether or not any other air company has applied for the same service—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Chevrier:** This question is quite in order, I think. Will the minister reassure the house that there is no such intention on the part of T.C.A. to suspend its services between those two points?

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** I wish to thank the hon. member for Laurier for giving me notice of his intention to ask this question. Trans-Canada Air Lines has not submitted any application to the air transport board in this connection. However, Pacific Western Airlines has submitted an application to the air transport board for authority to take over this route. In accordance with the requirements of the Aeronautics Act this matter must be dealt with by the air transport board, which has now given public notice of this application.

I do not believe I should comment further at this stage, since the matter is presently before the board, other than to point out that all interested parties will have ample opportunity to make their views known in connection with the public hearing which I expect the board will have to arrange in this connection.

### VETERANS AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO RECOMMENDATIONS BY  
CANADIAN LEGION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** I wish to address a question to the Minister