

LABOUR CONDITIONS

POSSIBILITY OF INQUIRY UNDER CANADA LABOUR CODE INTO ACTIVITIES OF SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. In view of the reported statement made outside the House by the Minister of Justice to the effect that he is not ordering a broad inquiry into the activities of the SIU but that there is enough evidence to form the basis for an inquiry under the Canada Labour Code to look into certain labour activities of the SIU, I wonder whether the Minister of Labour could tell us if he is ordering such an inquiry?

● (1440)

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the statement made by the Minister of Justice. The material upon which he came to that conclusion has just very recently come into our possession. We are considering the possibilities the hon. member is suggesting. There are several possibilities under the Labour Code. There is the inquiry and, I believe, under section 196 we have another option in terms of conducting further examinations.

An hon. Member: Snowball.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): There is no suggestion of snowball here at all. We just received the material.

An hon. Member: Stonewall.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): There is no question of stonewall, either. We just received the information, and if that information justifies appropriate action being taken to correct abuses, we will take that action.

SUGGESTION CABINET COMMITTEE CONSIDER NEED FOR INQUIRY UNDER LABOUR CODE INTO ACTIVITIES OF SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): My supplementary is to the Acting Prime Minister, and I want to put it as delicately as I can. In view of the relationship of the Minister of Labour in the past to the SIU, along with some of his cabinet colleagues, and in view of the fact that technically it falls exclusively under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Labour to call for such an inquiry, will the Acting Prime Minister consider the possibility of setting up a cabinet committee composed of colleagues who have not been involved with the SIU to consider this matter?

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): You won't get a quorum.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I will answer as delicately as possible that I do not think my hon. friend would be satisfied with that sort of inquiry. I have confidence in the Minister of Labour, and I would suggest that questions of the kind which have been put which insinuate something wrongful are contrary to our rules.

Oral Questions

AGRICULTURE

BEEF CATTLE—SUGGESTION MINISTER JUSTIFY STATEMENT QUOTAS WORTH \$100 MILLION TO PRODUCERS

Mr. Bert Cadieu (Meadow Lake): My question is to the Minister of Agriculture. As the minister has been stating that the imposition of quotas on beef has been worth \$100 million to producers, will he make public the calculation by which he arrives at these figures?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I received a letter from the secretary-manager of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, and he said—if I can use the word—that I was being rather conservative when I said they had gained \$100 million by the program, and he can present figures which show that it was much more than \$100 million.

BEEF CATTLE—ALLEGED REDUCTION IN SALES OF BREEDING STOCK

Mr. Bert Cadieu (Meadow Lake): Is the minister aware of livestock sales on breeding stock in western Canada? Almost 50 per cent are going back home rather than going through sales. Is the minister aware of this?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, all I know is that all the sales of breeding stock, British breeds, held at Calgary and Regina have been better than they ever expected, and some of the best they have had for years. A vast majority of that stock from those purebred breed sales went to the United States of America.

Mr. Cadieu: If the minister would check these figures, he would find that this average represents only the cattle that were sold, not the ones which went back to the farm.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Moncton.

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AIR TRANSPORT

LACK OF SERVICE BETWEEN NEW BRUNSWICK AND OTTAWA—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Leonard Jones (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware that at the present time there is no direct, regular air service from any point in the province of New Brunswick, and in particular, from the city of Moncton, to the nation's capital, resulting in a very unjust situation for New Brunswickers? Will the minister take immediate steps to rectify this situation?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will make an inquiry and tell the hon. member what we are doing about it.