

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister of Labour give any further information relative to the strike involving the Northland Navigation Company of Vancouver; and has his attention been drawn to a statement by Mr. Greaves, president of the marine engineers, that the seafarers international union has imported 15 musclemen, commonly known as goons, from the United States to violently influence the situation in Vancouver?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am in receipt of a telegram from Mr. Greaves, the president of the marine engineers. The situation in the dispute between Northland Navigation Company and the national association of marine engineers is as follows. The company obtained a court injunction against picketing being carried on by the national association of marine engineers in pursuance of the strike declared by the marine engineers against the company. The injunction was to be effective until the decision of the Canada labour relations board was given on the application for revocation of certification granted to the national association of marine engineers as bargaining agent of engineers of the company.

It is understood that this application for revocation of certification is sponsored by the seafarers international union. The Canada labour relations board has reserved its decision until it meets on July 7, next week. The international longshoremen's and warehousemen's union has been observing the picket lines of the national association of marine engineers. The company, it is alleged, has employed men supplied by the seafarers international union to load and unload its vessels.

Following the lifting of the picket lines as a result of the court order the international longshoremen's and warehousemen's union members attempted to resume work but were not rehired by the company. They therefore established their own picket lines and the company has obtained an interim injunction that can be appealed within 24 hours.

The company has taken the position that it no longer employs longshoremen, having contracted out such work to another company. The telegram this morning alleges that the seafarers international union has imported persons from the United States to take over longshoremen's operations. These allegations are now being investigated. The charges that are made by Mr. Greaves in the telegram as to the importation of persons from the United States are being investigated by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

Mr. Winch: May I ask a supplementary question of the Acting Minister of Citizenship

[Mr. Winch.]

and Immigration, in the absence of the minister. If as a result of the investigation it is found that importees have been brought in to influence the situation in Vancouver, will they be deported?

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member might reserve that question until it has ceased to have a hypothetical character.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I should like to ask a supplementary question of the Acting Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. How is it possible under our law and regulations for 15 goons from the United States to enter Canada to support the illegal activities of the seafarers international union?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Acting Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): As has been stated by the Minister of Labour, the allegation that there has been such importation is being investigated, and until the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration has the facts it is impossible to answer that question.

[Later:]

Mr. Herridge: I should like to ask the Minister of Transport a belated supplementary question. In view of the fact that the Northland Navigation Company receives an annual subsidy of \$294,000 from this government, and in view of the fact that the marine engineers were under the impression that public money was being used to import these goons, would the minister make inquiries as to what is really happening from the company's point of view in this situation in Vancouver?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): I think my colleague the Minister of Labour has this matter well in hand, and he is making inquiries.

Mr. Winch: May I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Transport. Can he inform the house if, in the event of an industrial dispute, the annual subsidy is continued?

Mr. Hees: I think that comes under the heading of a hypothetical question.

Mr. Winch: You know whether or not you are paying it, don't you?

SHIPPING

LAKE HURON—INQUIRY AS TO SINKING OF S.S. "MONROVIA"

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Transport of which he has had informal notice. Can the minister give us