

lished, and it will not be published; but if charges can be laid, that will be done.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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### LABOUR CONDITIONS

REASON MINISTER SAID ONTARIO STRANGELY UNHELPFUL WITH REGARD TO ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** It appears to me that the report will only be for the edification of the front bench of the government in power. I would like to ask a final supplementary of the Minister of Labour. Knowing that the minister does not like to deal with innuendos, and rightfully so—and he is concerned about that—I wonder if he can advise the House as to the circumstances which led him to indicate that Ontario authorities were strangely unhelpful—and I emphasize the word “strangely”—would the minister conclude that this is the type of innuendo he has registered his concern about?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Alexander:** Mr. Speaker, my question was framed whether the minister—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Alexander:** Would the minister now indicate to the House why he used the word “strangely”? That is what I am trying to get at. Is he prepared to take us into his confidence?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I already dealt with this question when I dealt with the matter in the House last week, but I will repeat it for the edification of the hon. member. When provincial ministers call for a federal inquiry into a matter, as they did in this particular case, and while continuing to call for one they also indicate that they are going to send information down to Ottawa on which we can base a conclusion, and the information does not arrive for weeks and weeks until indeed we have to go out and search it out ourselves, I would call that just what I called it yesterday, strangely unco-operative.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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### HEALTH

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ENSURE MEAT UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION NOT SOLD TO CONSUMERS

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I would like to ask him what he did when he found back in late 1973 and early 1974 that putrid

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meat unfit for human consumption was being sold in Quebec. Did he do anything to assure himself that the inspection system being operated in that province was successful, and if he made no approach to the government of Quebec with regard to this, what did he do at that time to discharge his obligation to prevent meat unfit for human consumption from being sold to the Canadian people?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** I am afraid that the Leader of the Opposition is turning into an old gramophone which repeats the same record. I have answered this question several times quite clearly.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

● (1500)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have indicated once in this question period already that if further questions are to be pursued on this matter, they ought to break new ground.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, with respect, I am breaking new ground. I am not asking the minister why he did not prosecute people. I am giving him an opportunity to tell this House and the people of the country what he did, if anything, to discharge his responsibilities.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lalonde:** Let me say once more that the situation is very simple, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition is again distorting the facts in the preamble to his question.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lalonde:** I have said a dozen times in this House—and I am surprised that the hon. Leader of the Opposition cannot get that into his head—that there was no evidence in 1973 and early 1974. There were only rumours and innuendoes—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lalonde:** Check the record. On that basis my officials asked the police forces to pursue the investigation because it could only be pursued by the police forces. The type of distortion that the hon. Leader of the Opposition is introducing in the preamble to questions will not help in clarifying this situation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) on a question of privilege.