

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. MacInnis: I would ask the Prime Minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order. There is no question of privilege here. Surely the hon. member can see that.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): I have a supplementary question to ask, but first I should like to say that the minister did make that statement at North Sydney and it is correct, what he did say at that time. Has he now made a decision in favour of Newfoundland to the detriment of the port of North Sydney, one which will put everybody out of work?

Mr. Pickersgill: No, I do not think any decision has been made to the detriment of any port. There was a necessary decision to be made in the interests of carrying out the terms of union with Newfoundland to provide a ferry service to Newfoundland. As my answer yesterday clearly indicated, every consideration was given to a matter which was not easy to decide, because it was obvious that if the ship was unloaded on one side of the strait the work would be there and not on the other side, and nothing could change that fact. The officials of the Department of Transport and, ultimately, the minister, had to decide what, in the public interest, was the wise decision to make, and that decision was made in the light of technical considerations which I tried to set out as plainly as I could in the answer I gave yesterday.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): So the stevedores at the port of North Sydney are to be the sacrificial lambs.

Mr. Pickersgill: Would the hon. gentleman prefer to sacrifice those at Port aux Basques?

Mr. MacInnis: I have a further supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. This is in line with a question I put to him last spring. Can the hon. gentleman now indicate to the house whether the gauge at the marshalling yards at Port aux Basques will be standardized?

Mr. Pickersgill: That is a technical question which I cannot answer offhand.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): I put the same question to the minister some months ago and he said I could not make that deduction. That is what he said when I asked him if they would be standardized.

Mr. MacInnis: A further supplementary—
[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Speaker: Order. We have spent nearly ten minutes on this important subject. Surely we have exhausted it.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): And we are going to have three or four hundred unemployed.

Mr. MacInnis: Unless they standardize the rails at Port aux Basques how are they going to unload the cargo from this particular ferry?

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member put that question on the order paper?

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): There is no point in putting anything on the order paper, because we cannot get answers. I have had a question on the order paper for weeks.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**CONSULTATION PROCEDURES RESPECTING
DESIGNATED AREAS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, and is based on the criticism of his department's achievements at the conference of mayors and municipalities. Will the minister assure us that in future before areas are designated he will improve the consultation procedures as among the department, the local authorities and the provinces; and will he also assure the house that he will take immediate steps in area industrial development to avoid duplication of services that already exists in the provinces?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I saw the newspaper report which no doubt led the hon. member to make this observation. Yesterday I attended throughout the meeting of mayors of municipalities, and the sole reference to designated areas in the presentation of their brief by the mayors of municipalities was limited to an invitation to the area development agency to avail themselves of the advice of the director, Mr. Mooney.

This was an invitation which I gladly accepted yesterday, and I did in fact instruct the area development agency to make use of the services of Mr. Mooney in respect of any ideas he may have in so far as designated areas are concerned. It has been a preoccupation of the officials of the area development agency to avoid duplication or, indeed, any kind of conflict with the provincial area or