

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): I should like to direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Now that the provincial election has been announced in Saskatchewan, has Premier Thatcher given permission to the federal government to call a by-election in the federal constituency of Assiniboia?

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LABOUR RELATIONS

DISPUTE BETWEEN HUDSON BAY MINING AND SMELTING COMPANY AND EMPLOYEES—STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Is there any break in the strike at the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company at Flin Flon? Has the Department of Labour a representative on the scene or are they, like the maid at the ball, sitting around waiting to be asked?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): We have had a mediator involved for several months, Mr. Speaker. There is no break in the strike, but I understand that negotiations or discussions are going on at this moment between the various unions involved.

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[Translation]

THE CENSUS

NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED ENGAGED FOR CENSUS-TAKING

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Acting Prime Minister, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Since 42,000 persons have been hired for the census, could the Acting Prime Minister tell us how many among them were really unemployed?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is asking the minister concerned to give some statistics. I think that the question could easily be put on the order paper.

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[English]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REQUEST BY MEMBER OF ARGENTIA TASK FORCE THAT CHAIRMAN RESIGN

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): My question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell the House what action he has taken in response to representations made to his department and the Minister of Transport that the chairman of the Argentia task force be asked to resign on the

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basis that he misled the committee and that he has failed to function?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Unfortunately I did not get the first part of the question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Carter: I will repeat it. I am asking the minister what action he has taken on the representations made to his department and to the Department of Transport requesting that the chairman of the Argentia task force be asked to resign?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): No, Mr. Speaker.

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TRANSPORT

IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORT ON COASTING TRADE—FEDERALLY SPONSORED MARINE INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): I have a question for the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker. Now that we have had a chance to digest the very comprehensive Darling report on shipping, will the minister take this opportunity to express his determination to proceed with this very well received report, and what does he envisage as the government's timetable for parts of it?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the object in tabling the report was to invite comment. I welcome the opportunity to indicate that I will be glad to hear representations from anyone with an interest in the report. I agree that it is a "Darling" report. We will do our very best to implement as quickly as possible those parts of it which seem to have public favour.

Mr. Bell: As one old dear to another, will the minister say what he is going to do about a federally sponsored marine insurance program, which is mentioned as something the government should proceed with as soon as possible?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, in anticipation of the report and prior to its publication I had already made representations to the insurance industry, particularly in the United Kingdom. One of the alternatives we put before them was the possibility of some form of sponsored insurance in the event that their rates did not become more reasonable. I hope that we will be able to work out one or other of these alternatives.

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OIL

PROPOSED TANKER ROUTE BETWEEN ALASKA AND STATE OF WASHINGTON—OFFICIAL EXPRESSION OF CANADIAN OPPOSITION

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of