

Inquiries of the Ministry

information, the bureau of statistics cannot make reliable estimates of tourist expenditures. We would only be guessing.

"The information we obtain is used both by ourselves and by the United States government in connection with balance of payments estimates. We have an arrangement with the department of commerce in the United States which is responsible for balance of payments figures in that country.

"We supply them with information on: (a) the expenditure of Americans entering Canada by vehicle; (b) the expenditure of Canadians entering the United States by all means of travel.

"The United States Department of Commerce supplies us with information on the expenditure of Americans entering Canada by train, boat, aeroplane and bus. They give out a postcard questionnaire which large numbers of Americans complete and send to the Department of Commerce on their return from Canada to the United States. This inquiry is also on a voluntary basis".

LABOUR CONDITIONS

SEAMEN'S STRIKE ON INLAND WATERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CLARENCE GILLIS (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. It arises out of a press dispatch this morning suggesting that the dispute between the Canadian seamen's union and the great lakes shipping companies has developed into a condition that appears to be spreading to other industries and leading up to civil war. Has this press dispatch been drawn to the attention of the minister? If so, what steps does his department intend to take to prevent the arming of ships, as indicated by the dispatch? This state of affairs will ultimately lead to what I have suggested, namely, civil war, if it is allowed to continue.

The minister indicates that the dispatch has not been drawn to his attention. I sent him notice of the question this morning and a copy of the press dispatch.

Right Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Justice): The hon. gentleman's notice has not been brought to my attention, nor have I seen the press dispatch, but I will consider what he has said. I am sure he is familiar with the division of jurisdiction between the provincial and the dominion authorities in matters of this kind.

[Mr. McCann.]

SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA

RECOMMENDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AS TO KEEPING CONTINUOUS WATCH

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. R. PEARKE (Nanaimo): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport, notice of which I have sent him? Has Canada agreed to the provisions accepted at the international conference on safety of life at sea, recently concluded in England, whereby all passenger ships and all cargo ships of more than 1,600 gross tons should keep a continuous watch, either through a human agency or through a human agency assisted by an automatic listening device? This question is of great interest to radio officers on the British Columbia coast.

Hon. LIONEL CHEVRIER (Minister of Transport): I am unable to give a specific answer to the question, but I can say that Canada has signed the convention for the safety of life at sea, subject to approval by this parliament. I have not received a detailed report from the head of the delegation, but I am informed that the convention will not become effective until 1951, and in any event it cannot be realized until such time as fifteen countries have submitted acceptance twelve months before the date I have mentioned.

SOCIAL SECURITY

QUESTION AS TO RECIPROCAL ACTION AMONG COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): May I ask a question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare? Press reports this morning indicate that the British Minister of National Insurance has been having discussions with other commonwealth countries in regard to reciprocal social security rights. Have discussions been held with the Department of National Health and Welfare of Canada? If so, what has been the result.

Hon. PAUL MARTIN (Minister of National Health and Welfare): There have been exploratory discussions from time to time with various representatives in connection with reciprocal social security benefits. I cannot say more than that at the present time.

CATTLE

EMBARGO ON SHIPMENT TO THE UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. DONALD M. FLEMING (Eglington): Mr. Speaker, on June 14 I directed to the ministry a question which I should like to renew