

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister of Labour whether he is in a position to advise the house as to whether there were any Canadian ships in United States ports that have been refused loading opportunities, and whether there are ships designed for Canadian trade in United States ports which have been interfered with, which according to the press is a fact. Then I ask the further question, has he been in touch with the United States administration in the last couple of days in this regard, to protest against what is being continued, and what are the prospects of the objections taken being seriously recognized by the United States?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the harassment of Canadian shipping in United States ports, the most recent incidents that have come to my knowledge occurred on the past week end, involving three ships, the *John Ericsson* in Chicago and two others which were subsequently cleared either at United States or Canadian ports. There was a report this past week that a picket had appeared against a Canadian ship at Toledo, but apparently that ship has successfully cleared the port. We have been keeping a very close eye on this matter, and to my knowledge those are the only incidents reported.

I have made no representations within the past two days to the United States authorities, although I understand that the Canadian ambassador in Washington has been following this matter, and for details I would rely on my colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Possibly the Secretary of State for External Affairs could bring us up to date on this matter.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the Prime Minister indicated the other day, this matter has received the attention of the Canadian embassy. Our ambassador is following the matter continuously. There is nothing more to report except that our ambassador in Washington has very recently indicated the continuing concern of the Canadian government in this matter.

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON INJURY TO SEAMAN

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the acting minister of justice or the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Justice whether the minister has yet received a report from investigators concerning the injuring of a seaman on the train going back to Toronto several days ago, the man who was taken off

the train and hospitalized in Smiths Falls, and other reported incidents of a similar nature.

Mr. D. S. Macdonald (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to answer the hon. member's question at the moment, but I will bring it to the attention of the minister—

Mr. Pugh: Only a week has gone by.

Mr. Macdonald:—and I am sure we will have an answer for him.

SHIPPING INDUSTRY—REVOCATION OF APPROVAL RESPECTING VACATION PAY ARRANGEMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour and ask him, in view of his announcement revoking the vacation pay plan, if he can tell the house whether the money that was in the hands of the S.I.U. has now been turned over to the employees.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): I am sorry; I did not get the first part of the hon. gentleman's question.

Mr. Starr: I would like to repeat it. I asked the minister if in view of his recent announcement revoking the vacation pay plan of the S.I.U., has the money in their hands been turned over to the employees yet?

Mr. MacEachen: I would like to take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

NATO—NUCLEAR ACTION WITHOUT CONSENT OF GOVERNMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the proposal made by General Norstad that nuclear action should be vested in the heads of the governments of the United States, Great Britain and France, would the Prime Minister give to parliament and the country an unequivocal assurance that Canadian forces under NATO will not be involved in nuclear action without the prior consent of the Canadian government?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I can certainly give that unequivocal assurance. The proposal of General Norstad, which I have read only in the press, seems to be one this government could not in any circumstances support.