

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE**RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES FOR AIR FORCE TECHNICAL OFFICERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. In view of the recently announced defence department pay review team, could the minister advise the house whether that team will be considering special responsibility allowances for radio operators, navigators and other technical officers in the air force? Also, when is the report of that body expected?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that this is not the type of question that should be asked at this time. It does not seem to be so urgent that it might not be placed on the order paper. If the hon. member thinks that the matter he raises is urgent, it might be given consideration in the adjournment debate or he might communicate directly with the minister.

Mr. Nowlan: At ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker. I think that will help to clarify some of the uncertainties that now exist in the services.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION—PROSECUTION OF FORMER OFFICERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a strictly appropriate question at this time of the Solicitor General. Has the Solicitor General anything further to report with respect to the examination of the accounts and documents seized by the R.C.M.P. from the Seafarers International headquarters from the point of view of the possibility of laying charges against some of the former senior officers of that organization?

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, recently the R.C.M.P. placed an extensive report in the hands of the special counsel who subsequently expressed the view that there are some points to be clarified. Accordingly, I have asked that the investigation be concluded and that a final report be made at the earliest possible date.

[Mr. Speaker.]

PUBLIC SERVICE**PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SYSTEM**

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide for the establishment of a system of collective bargaining applicable to employees in the public service of Canada and for the resolution of disputes that may arise in the negotiation or conclusion of collective agreements applicable to such employees; to establish a process for the presentation of grievances of employees arising in connection with their employment and to establish a system for the adjudication of grievances of employees; to provide for the establishment of a board, to be known as the Public Service Staff Relations Board, which shall be responsible for the administration of the said measure and to provide further for the constitution and appointment of such other authorities, officers and employees as are required in connection with the administration of the said measure.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Batten in the chair.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to move the adoption of this resolution which stands on the order paper in my name. The purpose of the resolution, and it is an important one, is stated in the first sentence.

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide for the establishment of a system of collective bargaining applicable to employees in the public service of Canada and for the resolution of disputes that may arise in the negotiation or conclusion of collective agreements applicable to such employees;—

I will not read the rest of the resolution at this time, Mr. Chairman. In other words, the object of this resolution is to make possible the introduction of legislation which will in its turn make possible the introduction into the public service of Canada of an appropriate system of collective bargaining.

● (4:30 p.m.)

The principle that public servants should have an opportunity to participate in such a system has, I believe, widespread support in the Canadian community. It is a principle which I think I can say is accepted by all parties represented in this house. It is our hope that the legislation which embodies this principle and which, if this resolution carries, will be placed before hon. members for their consideration and ultimate approval, will prove to be an effective instrument for the regulation of employer-employee relationships in the public service.

It has been the usual practice in this house, in dealing with legislation relating to the