

Inquiries of the Ministry

operating in such a manner as to meet our new nationwide pollution standards.

Mr. Lewis: I am concerned about whether there is machinery that can protect the environment before any harm is done. In view of the minister's concern about the salmon fishery in the east, for example, has he looked into the question also raised by ecologists at the University of Waterloo that this entire project in northern Quebec will adversely affect some 30 sources of salmon fishing in a very important part of that province and, indeed, of Canada?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, while the inland waters fishery, in this case salmon fishery, is administered by the province of Quebec, we enjoy the closest possible liaison with the provincial authorities in this regard. I can assure the hon. member that we have been very concerned, as is the province of Quebec, with not only the maintenance but the revival of salmon runs in that province.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for York South for one last supplementary and then the hon. member for Churchill.

Mr. Lewis: Will the minister inform the House whether these matters have in fact been looked into by his department and whether there have been discussions between his department, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the province of Quebec relating to these aspects of the undertaking and any others?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the report to which the hon. member refers, but I can assure him that with respect to those matters he has mentioned today we have been working closely with the province and, of course, with the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

PROPOSED RAISING OF LEVEL OF SOUTH INDIAN LAKE,
MANITOBA—REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET WITH
LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of the Environment. Has the minister received a request from the council or the people of the South Indian Lake area of Manitoba for a meeting with the minister with regard to their concern about the damage that may be caused to the ecology and the environment of the lake and surrounding area because of the recent decision to raise the level of the lake to 850 feet? If so, is the minister prepared to meet with the council as requested?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I believe we have received such a submission. I am certainly prepared to meet these people. However, I would want to meet with them in the presence of the provincial authorities who I believe have a greater responsibility than the federal government in this connection.

[Mr. Davis.]

[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS

QUEBEC—LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE—RESULT OF
MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER AND PARTIES

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Labour.

Following the talks he had with the Maritime Employers Association and representatives of the Montreal longshoremen's union, has the minister found that the conflict may soon be settled and when does the minister think that it may be?

• (1450)

[English]

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I met with the representatives of the two parties yesterday and I will be meeting again this evening with representatives of the Maritime Employers Association. I trust that we will make good progress at these meetings.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, have both parties already accepted the suggestion of the minister that they should meet with him in order to discuss this problem with a view to settling it?

[English]

Mr. O'Connell: We are in the process of meeting, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon I received a wire from the International Longshoremen's Association accepting the appointment of a commissioner, with the understanding that prior to this the two parties must agree on the conditions of a return to work and the lifting of the suspension, that is to say, resumption of operations at the port. That is understood to be a condition precedent.

QUEBEC—LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE—
REPRESENTATIONS BY WESTERN GRAIN
ORGANIZATIONS FOR ACTION TO END DISPUTE

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In view of the statement made by the president of the Alberta Wheat Pool that the tie-up of the St. Lawrence ports has reduced export grain loadings by two and a half million bushels a day and has resulted in the loss of important wheat sales to China and barley sales to Europe, may I ask the minister whether he has received representations from western co-operatives or, indeed, from the National Farmers Union that he take action to bring this tie-up to an end?

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have received representations from many economic interests that are concerned about the disruption of facilities in these ports. We are doing all we can to bring the disruption to an end.

Mr. Gleave: May I ask the minister whether, failing an immediate agreement between the two parties, the government will take action to operate the stevedoring firms and see that movement of cargo gets under way and continues?