

Inquiries of the Ministry

Finance. Was it an oversight that loggers and lumberjacks were not mentioned in his announcement of proposed changes in the Income Tax Act affecting construction workers?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

SHIPPING

MIRAMICHI—INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF PORT WARDEN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. R. McWilliam (Northumberland-Miramichi): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Has the minister received a communication from the Newcastle, New Brunswick, board of trade to the effect that a survey shows that local shippers were unanimous in their opinion that the appointment of a port warden for the port of Miramichi is not necessary, as all duties have been satisfactorily performed in the past by the harbourmasters and wharfingers?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): I wish to thank the hon. member for his courtesy in advising me of his intention to ask this question. I did not myself receive such a letter but my department received one from the secretary, Newcastle, New Brunswick, board of trade to the effect that the opinion of several local shippers had been obtained on the proposed tariff of port warden's fees. The local shippers apparently feel that shipmasters are competent to see that loading is carried out in accordance with the Canada Shipping Act, and that this makes the services of a port warden unnecessary.

The secretary stated that the board of trade as a body had arrived at no definite opinion, but submitted the above as the opinion of shippers who had been written to or interviewed.

My department has replied explaining that section 628 of the Canada Shipping Act requires that no officer of customs shall grant a clearance to any ship loaded with concentrates consigned to any place outside of Canada and not being within the limits of an inland voyage unless the master of such ship produces to him a certificate signed by the port warden.

Thus the appointment of a port warden and the establishment of a tariff of fees for his services has been made legally necessary by the shipping of concentrates from Miramichi bay.

Mr. McWilliam: May I ask a supplementary question. Has the schedule of rates been arrived at as yet?

[Mr. Fisher.]

Mr. Hees: I am not sure whether or not they have, but I shall check on that.

HEALTH INSURANCE

INQUIRY AS TO DISCONTINUANCE OF HEALTH GRANTS TO PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. G. J. Hahn (New Westminster): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I regret that I did not have the opportunity to send him notice. Is it the intention of his department to discontinue present health grants to the provinces when the health plan is set in operation?

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): It is certainly not the intention to discontinue health grants. There may be some overlapping, which would have to be examined and studied.

SUPPLY

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

ATTITUDE OF OFFICIAL OPPOSITION ON SUPPLY MOTIONS

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I want—

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if the right hon. gentleman would permit me to clarify the situation before we proceed. As I understand it, it is with the unanimous consent of the house that we are entering on this debate at this time, and the vote will be taken at ten o'clock tonight.

Mr. Green: At 8.15.

Mr. Speaker: At 8.15. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

An hon. Member: If there is an amendment.

Mr. Speaker: On the amendment, if any, at 8.15 and on the final motion at ten o'clock.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Hahn: The understanding is that the final vote shall be taken at 8.15 in order to permit grievances to be stated after 8.15.

Mr. Lesage: No. The vote on the main motion is at ten o'clock.

Mr. Hahn: I understand. I am sorry.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the house leader would indicate what the understanding is so we may proceed knowing when we shall have a vote.