

LABOUR CONDITIONS

RAILWAY ENGINEERS—INQUIRY AS TO PRESENT POSITION OF DISPUTE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. L. M. Creaghan (Westmorland): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Labour. This is an important question, and it affects every member of the house. Can the minister advise the house whether there have been any new developments in the dispute between the locomotive engineers and the railways?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was in touch by telephone with the presidents of both railways as well as Mr. Travers of the locomotive engineers. Following the telephone conversations I dispatched to all concerned in the dispute a telegram which reads as follows:

—it is in critical interest of Canada and all Canadians that you and your officers resume negotiations . . . and make utmost effort to settle remaining matters in dispute as soon as possible before threatened strike . . . Stoppage of railway operations would be utterly disastrous in its impact on spring upsurge in Canadian economic activity. Please keep me closely in touch with progress of negotiations.

Today I have been advised that as a result of this telegram the parties to the dispute agreed to meet tomorrow morning at 10.30 o'clock.

SYDNEY MINES, N.S.—WORKING CONDITIONS OF FREIGHT HANDLERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Gloucester asked if I had received a letter from the Princess local, united mine workers of America, at Sydney Mines concerning the Northside freight handlers' association. I have indeed received a letter, and I have asked Canadian National Railways to give me a report on the situation.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REPORTED ACTION IN U.S. COURTS AGAINST ROYAL BANK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice. I regret that I have not given him advance notice of it. Perhaps he might answer tomorrow if he has not been informed of the matter. Press reports this afternoon have indicated that disclosures have been made in the House of Representatives subcommittee in Washington indicating that the United States government is suing the Royal Bank of Canada with

Inquiries of the Ministry

respect to certain cheques that were not stopped in 1960 when there were political difficulties. Will the Minister of Justice indicate whether it is possible to have the United States government in United States courts sue a Canadian corporation for something that seems to involve a commercial transaction in Cuba?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to look into this matter. However, I would have some reservations as to whether, in commenting on it, I would not be called upon to express a legal opinion, and on matters that do not fall within the responsibility of the government. Subject to the reservation that I should only report on a matter in so far as it lies within my responsibility as minister, I shall be glad to look into the matter and report to the house as soon as possible.

SONS OF FREEDOM—PROTEST AGAINST CONSTRUCTION OF SPECIAL PRISON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I apologize for asking several questions today, but my constituents are provoked. I wish to ask the Minister of Justice if he has received a resolution from the Nelson chamber of commerce protesting his proposal to build a special prison in the Fraser valley for Doukhobor convicts. If so, will he reconsider this matter to see whether dispersal in several prisons rather than concentration in one might be more apt to reduce the anti-social tendencies of these prisoners?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): I cannot say at the moment with certainty whether or not I have received a resolution from the Nelson chamber of commerce to this effect. I dare say I have, because I have received a number of communications from individuals and organizations in that area on this subject, to most, if not all, of which I have up to now replied to the effect that, while there is a good deal that can be said in favour of dispersing Sons of Freedom convicted to penitentiary terms in our institutions across Canada, nevertheless up to the present time, owing to the serious overcrowding in our maximum security institutions, this is not possible. We are left, therefore, with no alternative, in the light of the nature of the Sons of Freedom fanatics who are being convicted, and our previous experience with them as inmates of institutions, but to establish a separate institution for them, at least until such time as overcrowding in our institutions has been alleviated.