

Inquiries of the Ministry

the industry would be avoided. My correspondence in this regard is very lengthy, and telegrams are being received, and the minister must be experiencing the same situation. Surely he would be willing, in order to let the industry know something of what he has in mind, to summarize his ideas in this connection.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, if it is agreeable to the Leader of the Opposition I would be glad to take this question as notice and at the first opportunity meet his wishes.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Could the minister look into this and give us an answer tomorrow? At the moment we are dealing with interim supply and we do not want to go into this field. We would very much appreciate a statement, because the industry is quite exercised over the situation.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): A supplementary question. When the minister is answering the Leader of the Opposition I wonder if he would advise the house whether he has referred this bill to and got an opinion from the Department of Justice as to what industries are affected, so that Canadian industries and working groups will know to whom this bill applies?

Mr. MacEachen: Unfortunately Mr. Speaker, I will not be in the house tomorrow, but perhaps I should indicate to the Leader of the Opposition today that I have under consideration a change to the transitional clause in part I covering hours of work.

At the present time it is possible within the terms of the bill for an industrial establishment to come forward and indicate that the operation of the hours of work provision will be detrimental either to the employees, the industry, the operation or the business. If that is demonstrated it is possible to grant an extension of 18 months for a period of adjustment. That possibility is included in the present terms of the bill and gives a considerable time latitude in adjusting to the requirements of the bill.

However, in addition to that I have under consideration a change under which, in certain circumstances and following appropriate inquiry, an extension of time would be granted beyond the present terms of the legislation. I think if this change is put into appropriate form it will meet the major objections of those operations which will find it difficult to implement the hours of work

provisions at once, or even over a period of 18 months.

I believe that during the committee of the whole stage we can discuss this aspect and satisfy hon. members that appropriate steps are being taken.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Perhaps I may be allowed to ask one more question, Mr. Speaker. Has the trucking industry, or any other industry to which reference has been made, had this suggestion submitted to it so the committee might have the benefit, through the minister, of their views and advice regarding the pertinence and also the effectiveness of these amendments he has in mind?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I have had discussions with the various trucking interests and have indicated to them that this is what I have in mind. It seemed that a week or so ago when I met a large group of truckers this satisfied them. It may be that they have had further thoughts and that something of this kind, which I did not present in the detail I have given today, would satisfy them.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister whether there is any likelihood that he can give us a copy of the amendments so that we could study them prior to their presentation to the committee of the whole.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, this whole procedure is irregular, because under the rules I should not be permitted to answer questions in respect of a matter on the order paper. I did so, however, to accommodate the interest in this particular case. I do not think the irregularity should be extended further by presenting amendments at this stage before we commence our consideration.

INQUIRY AS TO WINTER WORKS PROGRAM IN NATIONAL PARKS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. In view of the announcement of the winter works program for Cape Breton national park, will the minister say when we can expect winter works programs for other national parks to be announced, and particularly Fundy national park where the work is desperately needed this winter?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): I think there