

*Oral Questions*

tions this prolonged strike was having, and to indicate our interest. Of course, this would automatically leave the impression that if that government felt we could be of any help, in spite of the fact the matter is within its jurisdiction, it could contact us, but it has not done so.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the Minister of Labour has shunned his responsibility in this case and tried to pass this off as a constitutional question, may I ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether he would investigate and take into account the big drain on the unemployment insurance fund of Canada as a result of thousands of construction workers put out of work because this government will not take action?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** No leadership.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is the hon. member rising to ask a supplementary question?

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS' STRIKE—REASON FOR  
ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOT INTERVENING

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether he has ascertained the reason the Prime Minister and government of the province of Ontario have refused to intervene in this dispute although the premier of another province has done so?

• (1500)

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** No, I cannot answer that question, Mr. Speaker. As the Leader of the Opposition knows, I cannot go into the motivations one way or another of the politicians in the Ontario provincial government. The fact is that I do know that the Ontario Department of Labour has had its personnel available in their mediation role but despite their efforts the talks have broken down. From what I read I take it there is pressure on that government to intervene and take constructive action, but I have had no further report.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS' STRIKE—SUGGESTED  
FEDERAL PARTICIPATION IN INDUSTRIAL INQUIRY  
COMMISSION

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact Nova Scotia has called for an industrial inquiry commission in order to look into this five month old strike and in light of the concern of the minister, would the minister communicate with the parties involved to see if this government can be either a party to the commission or at least be there as an observer. I hope the minister can take this under advisement.

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** I think it is obvious that even the parties to this dispute are prepared to acknowledge that the federal government has no jurisdiction and that the provinces involved, particularly Ontario, are prepared to accept their exclusive jurisdiction and not call upon the federal government to help. There is absolutely no leverage for the federal govern-

[Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).]

ment to make a constructive contribution in this matter at all.

**Mr. Alexander:** In light of the fact the minister has had some conversations with at least the authorities of the province of Ontario and therefore did set the tone, does the minister not now think this is the proper time for him to become involved once again in order to see whether his department can be of assistance in this matter?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the obvious serious implications here, of course we would try to render whatever assistance we could. If the hon. member and other hon. members opposite view this in the light they have expressed now, they are in a better position than I to approach their political counterparts in the province of Ontario.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I will have to seek the cooperation of hon. members very soon. We are still on the second or third question. There are a number of members seeking to ask questions. We have had quite a few supplementaries on two or three questions. At this point I will recognize the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond.

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is addressed to the Minister of Public Works. Since this comes within the jurisdiction of his department, I should like to ask the minister whether he will take some action concerning the elevators within this building as well as other government buildings in Ottawa, and at least see that they are repaired?

**Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, the observations of the Minister of Labour still apply. If hon. members on the other side have any influence with their provincial counterparts, they should ask them to move.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, because the answer given to me by the minister is quite out of line with the facts. There is no doubt about the fact that the Minister of Public Works is responsible for government buildings in this area, and it is time he got off his butt and did something about it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Again, there are members seeking to ask supplementaries on this question. I hope hon. members will not feel hurt if I try to go on to the next subject. I shall recognize the hon. member for Prince Albert who probably has a non-controversial question to ask.

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ENERGY

SUGGESTED CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY FROM NORTH  
WITH TERMINUS IN SASKATCHEWAN TO TRANSPORT OIL  
AND GAS—REQUEST FOR ESTIMATE OF COST

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my questions are always modest and only attempt to obtain information. In view of the fact that one of the