

Inquiries of the Ministry

on a particular subject during the question period I felt there was no need to have an adjournment debate on the same subject later under Standing Order 26. I would think it should be one thing or the other. I believe it would be the part of wisdom not to insist on these questions unduly at this time.

Mr. Hees: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I then ask whether it is the intention of the Prime Minister to remain in the house during the debate to answer questions on this matter which is of such great importance to the country?

Mr. Baldwin: I too rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Accepting the basic principle of your ruling, of course, as I would in any event, I ask whether Your Honour would not agree that there might be a selective application of the rule so that questions might be asked which are genuinely for the purpose of obtaining information that would be useful during the course of the debate? This might in fact save considerable time in the debate and might permit a more useful contribution by members who have very legitimately raised this issue. I ask Your Honour to give consideration to that proposition.

Mr. Speaker: I have, of course, given this point consideration and I recognize it is in many ways a valid point. It is just that in the past we have followed the practice that when a debate is set down for the evening or the next day we have waited until that order is reached to make suggestions and seek information. It is only the application of this rule that I have taken the liberty of bringing to the attention of hon. members. I would hope we might try to follow this rule.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, following my point of order, through you I would respectfully seek an answer from the Prime Minister concerning whether or not he intends to remain in the house today, take part in the debate and answer these questions at that time?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South.

Mr. Hees: Does he or does he not?

Mr. Trudeau: No.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, obviously the Prime Minister did not mean a thing he said in the west last week and does not give a damn about this whole problem.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South.

[Mr. Speaker.]

LABOUR RELATIONS**QUEBEC-LABRADOR IRON ORE INDUSTRY—
APPOINTMENT OF MEDIATOR**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I go to labour—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: I really cannot conceive what hon. members are laughing about. Has the Minister of Labour received a telegram from the union negotiators, who have recently been negotiating with the Iron Ore Company of Canada and the Quebec North Shore and Labrador Railway in an effort to settle the strike which has been in effect for quite a number of weeks and in respect of which negotiations have broken down, requesting the appointment of a mediator to help settle the dispute? If so, what was his reply?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, shortly before noon I did receive a telegram signed jointly by representatives of the United Steel Workers and the Machinists asking if we would provide joint mediation with Quebec. Subsequently we have contacted the Department of Labour of the province of Quebec to see whether they would agree to joint mediation. I shall be in a position to report more fully on Wednesday.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, have the union negotiators and the companies been informed of the minister's decision to pursue the course he has just indicated?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, instructions to the labour department have already gone out to inform both parties of this decision, and I presume that by now—or certainly later this afternoon—management and labour will be informed that the province of Quebec and the Dominion of Canada have jointly provided a mediation team in order to bring this very prolonged strike to an end.

OIL**INQUIRY AS TO SECRET AGREEMENT BETWEEN
CANADA AND UNITED STATES**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister on a different subject, and may I say that we were rather sorry he did not visit the city of Calgary. In view of the economic anxieties in western Canada on the part of the agricultural and other industries, can the Prime Minister advise the house whether