

Inquiries of the Ministry

called for. Unfortunately, however, I am not in a position to answer it. The matter is now *sub judice*; it is before the courts in British Columbia. This morning the matter was argued before a local judge of the Supreme Court. A decision on the matters referred to is expected about 5.30 our time this afternoon.

Mr. Douglas: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the matter which is before the court has to do with an injunction, may I ask the minister whether he or his department have requested the B.C. Maritime Employers Association to agree to negotiate, in view of the fact that the employees have indicated their willingness to go back to work without an agreement.

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, the matter has been dealt with in correspondence and by telephone with representatives of the employers association as well as with the representatives of the union, which allegedly is not a member of the I.L.W.A., but in fact seems to be. All I can say is there is a very important legal question, which the employers say is an involved one, and a decision on this legal point is involved in the very application upon which a decision is expected later this afternoon.

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In connection with the reference the minister just made to a matter which is before the court, I should like to ask him whether he is correctly reported as having labelled this strike illegal and, in view of the fact that so often we are told in the house that ministers of the crown cannot give legal opinions here, whether the minister in fact did give a legal opinion outside the house on this matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. As I understand it the hon. member really is asking the minister to confirm or deny a press report. My understanding of the rules is that this is not in order.

[Later:]

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce arising out of the very serious impact the shipping tie-up on the west coast is having on our export trade. In view of the fact the Minister of

[Mr. Nicholson.]

Labour is occupied with the technical and legal aspects of this question, will the minister take it upon himself to urge the B.C. Maritime Employers Association to do the sensible and practical thing so that our export trade will start to move again, instead of playing around with such things as court injunctions?

AIR CANADA**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON STRIKE
NEGOTIATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, my question is related to the previous question. I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether he has any information to report in respect to the Air Canada strike, and whether he can tell us at this time what steps if any the government is taking in an effort to bring it to an expeditious conclusion.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as I had hoped, the parties came together over the week end of their own accord, rather than as a result of government intervention. This is the way the government—rather this is the shape that the government—hoped the negotiations would take. The parties now are actually negotiating in Montreal.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**HAL BANKS—POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER
LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, 11 days ago I asked the Solicitor General if he could give us some information with regard to the possibility of extradition proceedings being taken against Hal Banks. The minister replied that his officials were in consultation with officials of the attorney general's department of Ontario and that he hoped it might not be too long before a decision was reached. Has the minister anything further to report on that matter?

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I think this matter perhaps ought to be directed to the Minister of Justice; but with his permission may I say a decision will be made later this week, following one further consultation with the officials of the province of Ontario.