REFUSAL OF LOBSTER FISHING LICENCE TO THEODORE LEGER

Motion No. 160-Mr. Coates:

That an order of the house do issue for a copy of all letters, telegrams and memoranda of telephone conversations to the Minister of Fisheries from Theodore Leger, Robichaud Office, New Brunswick, regarding the refusal by the minister and his offi-cials to issue a lobster fishing licence to the aforementioned Mr. Leger.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO AVERT THREATENED STRIKE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister to advise the house what is meant by "exceptional action" which the government intends to take to end the postal crisis. I refer to the headline appearing in today's Ottawa Journal which is "Exceptional Action May End Postal Crisis". What does the government have in mind? Does it intend to bring in compulsory arbitration, or what does it intend to do to deny postal workers a reasonable degree of justice?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not suppose I am required to comment on headlines in newspapers as referred to by my right hon. friend, but I should like to tell him we are doing everything that can be done to prevent this postal strike.

NATURAL GAS

REQUEST FOR COPY OF AGREEMENT ON PROPOSED LINE THROUGH U.S.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, on October 7 in answer to a question I asked the right hon. Prime Minister said it was his hope that in the following week the government would table the agreement between the responsible minister and the Trans-Canada Pipe Line Company regarding the construction of a gas pipe line through the United States. As far as I know the agreement has not as yet been tabled although nearly two weeks have elapsed. I should like to ask the Prime Minister when we may expect to receive a copy of that Speaker, in view of the widespread damage agreement.

23033-5613

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to deal with that question.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I hope to table that agreement on Friday, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Douglas: I have a supplementary question. How soon after that agreement is tabled does the Prime Minister propose to provide an opportunity for debate on this question, which has far reaching consequences for certain areas of Canada and has a certain bearing on Canada's policy in respect of the disposal of its resources?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I hope there will be an opportunity to debate this matter before long. I would welcome such a debate on this matter.

[Translation]

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO AVERT THREATENED STRIKE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General.

Is the minister partly responsible for the offer of 6 per cent made to postal workers recently and which does not appear to satisfy them?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, that recommendation comes from the civil service commission and no minister is responsible for such recommendations.

Mr. Caouette: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Before the civil service made that offer, had not the minister been informed of that 6 per cent increase and does he not admit that to offer an increase of 6 per cent to postal workers is simply to laugh in their faces.

Mr. Speaker: This question is more of an argument than a question.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PERU-OFFER OF ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. in Peru as a result of Monday's earthquake,