

Oral Questions

believe the member has been advised. I am sure the member was not present in the House for very good reasons, but I have had the statement for three or four days and was awaiting his return. I will see that he, along with spokesmen for other parties, gets a copy of it, later this afternoon, and by agreement we can decide whether the statement will be made tomorrow or Friday.

Mr. Crouse: My question was in two parts, and since part of it was referred to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment, I wonder if he would answer.

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I will have to check the exact lists of quotas in the fisheries plan, but certainly in some cases the Canadian quota may not be as high as some foreign quotas. As the hon. member knows, under the 1972 agreement France has access to some fisheries inside the gulf.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. Since the east coast fleet simply cannot expect to survive under the proposed fisheries management plan which has been put forward for 1977, will the minister undertake to review immediately the quotas proposed for Canadian fishermen in the plan as it is presently implemented in the hope of eliminating what I feel is a form of discrimination which will have serious social consequences in Atlantic Canada?

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, this plan is still the subject of consultation with the fishing industry. In fact, this very Monday I met with a group of skippers of large trawlers. These discussions are still going on. There will need to be some belt tightening by all segments of the industry, but we are trying very hard to share and to share fairly.

* * *

LABOUR CONDITIONS**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF HALL REPORT ON PENSIONS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES**

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour. In July, 1974 Dr. Noel Hall was commissioned to study and report on pension plans in the railroad industry. I understand that that report was completed and delivered to the minister early in September. Can the minister advise what action is being taken on that report, and when it will be made public?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, it should be made public very soon. It is a voluminous and technical report, and it is going through the translation stage now. This should be finished any time.

Mr. Fraser: On October 18 the minister said in this House that that report would be ready in a couple of weeks. Is the delay in any way accounted for by the fact that the government is making its own deliberations on the report, and when

[Mr. Jamieson.]

the report is submitted, will the minister make a statement as to the government's response to it?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): I can assure the hon. member that that is not the case. A good deal of pressure from myself and others in this House was put on Dr. Hall to get this report in as quickly as he could. He finally got it in. He had some difficulties due to actuarial reports and so on, and we have all the resources available to us trying to get the translation completed, so there is no delay of an intentional nature whatsoever.

* * *

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**MEETING OF MINISTER WITH CANADIAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION—ACCEPTANCE OF RIDE ON AIRCRAFT OWNED BY BANK**

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question has to do with Bill C-16, commonly known as the borrowers and lenders legislation. I direct it to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Has he met with representatives of the Canadian Bankers' Association in this regard, and more importantly, in going to meet with the Canadian Bankers' Association did the minister ride in their aircraft or in an aircraft supplied by one of the member banks?

Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I met last Friday with a delegation from the Canadian Bankers' Association, and following our meeting, which delayed my departure to make a speech in Toronto, I was offered a ride. I accepted it with pleasure because it was free.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Nothing is free in this life.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Calling Marc Lalonde. What do you think about that, Marc?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Grafftey: Does the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs feel it is proper that when a bill which is meant to protect the interests of Canadian consumers is before the House he should accept free transportation from the banking interests of this country?

Mr. Abbott: I hope my reputation with my hon. friend has not sunk so low that he thinks I can be bought with a free ride to Toronto.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Paproski: What is your price?