

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

regard to air pollution by ships, the hon. member for Laurier asked a supplementary question as to whether the international joint commission was considering water pollution in the great lakes area. I answered that it was my understanding the international joint commission was concerned with this matter. I am advised that the international joint commission has studied the pollution of boundary waters, and has issued a comprehensive report on the matter. The report deals, of course, with pollution of water from land sources as well as from ships.

I might also mention that in 1956 an amendment to the Canada Shipping Act was passed to provide for approval by Canada of the international convention for the prevention of pollution of the sea by oil. This convention comes into force on July 26, 1958, and provides measures for curbing pollution of the high seas by oil from ships. The same amendment to the shipping act also empowered the governor in council to make regulations for preventing pollution of our domestic waters by oil from ships.

As a first step toward enforcement of the pollution convention and our own domestic anti-pollution regulations, the Department of Transport has appointed a marine inspector at the port of Montreal and is proceeding with the designation of various provincial, municipal and harbour police officers throughout our ports as inspectors for this purpose. Their efforts will be co-ordinated by the marine inspector at Montreal.

**SHIPPING****ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY—STATEMENT ON EQUIPMENT TO KEEP CHANNELS OPEN IN WINTER**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Kingston referred in a question to experiments being carried out in Sweden to free water channels from freezing in winter, and asked if such equipment was being considered in connection with the St. Lawrence seaway.

I indicated in my reply that we would be interested in the results of such experiments. In the meantime I have learned that experiments using this principle, which is that of air movement from the river or harbour bed or at subsurface level by releasing air bubbles to prevent freezing, have been taking place both in Canada and in Europe. Officials of my department have been keeping in touch with the results of these experiments, which are

[Mr. Hees.]

extremely interesting and could lead to useful developments in this field. Further information and further tests are required, and will undoubtedly be carried out by interested groups.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF BENEFITS TO UNEMPLOYED**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Wilfrid LaCroix (Quebec-Montmorency):** May I direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Is it true that the government has decided to extend the benefit period under the Unemployment Insurance Act to 52 weeks, as promised by the Prime Minister at a Conservative rally on May 4, 1957, at Campbellton?

**Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour):** No decision has as yet been made by the government pertaining to the question asked by the hon. member.

**OLD AGE PENSIONS****INQUIRY AS TO FURTHER INCREASE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Wilfrid LaCroix (Quebec-Montmorency):** May I ask a question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is it true that the government has decided to increase again the old age pension, as a result of the fact that the Liberals have given \$46 and the Tories only \$9?

**CANADIAN NATIONAL STEAMSHIPS****TRANSFER OF VESSELS TO FOREIGN REGISTRY—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. A. Byrne (Kootenay East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. I saw that he was endeavouring to rise a few moments ago and I tried to reach him before he made that effort. Would the minister reconsider his decision to allow the Canadian National Steamships to transfer its ships to Trinidad registry, an action designed to break the strike of the seafarers' international union, thus throwing 200 more Canadians out of work.

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the action of the Canadian National Steamships was in no way an attempt to break any strike. On Monday I outlined very carefully the steps that led to the action that was taken. If the hon.