

Inquiries of the Ministry

purchase other securities in the United States in addition to the ones we have been buying, will he also seek permission to purchase equity in United States owned companies in Canada as a better way of repatriating United States funds and helping them with their balance of payments?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Whatever merit there may be in that suggestion, it would not have the effect desired.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSEREQUEST FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
ON ORDER PAPER

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): I wish to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact that tomorrow is the day when written questions are answered and since there is one question that has been on the order paper since January, four since February, ten since March, 15 since April and 48 since May, and particularly in view of the fact that starred question No. 1500 has been on the order paper since May 16, will he not prevail upon his ministers to answer these questions?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I will be glad to do so. May I point out that I was looking up the questions today and I noticed that of the first 1,000 questions, 992 have been answered.

Mr. Starr: They should all have been answered, not just some.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Sometimes the last eight are the important ones.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON LABOUR DISPUTE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to ask the Minister of Labour whether he is in a position to advise us with regard to the position of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers concerning the C.N.R. offer of a wage increase of 9.2 per cent on behalf of the 22,000 non-operating railway employees.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, this matter is presently before a conciliation board, and it would hardly be proper for me to make a statement at this time.

[Mr. Saltsman.]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Does the minister not know that the union told the board that it rejected the offer?

I will then ask the minister this question. In view of the settlements that were made in connection with the stevedore strike in Montreal and the threatened lake strike, has the government come to the conclusion that a 30 per cent wage increase over a period of two years is one that would maintain the line against inflation?

Mr. Nicholson: Certainly not, Mr. Speaker. Each one of these cases is dealt with by the conciliation board concerned on its own merits.

Mr. Diefenbaker: These cases I have mentioned were not dealt with by the conciliation board until the intervention of the Prime Minister.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

STEPS TO ENSURE HOLIDAY ON JULY 1

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): My question is addressed to the Minister of Labour. In view of the difficulties which arose with respect to the longshoremen in Vancouver seeking a holiday on Victoria day as provided for under the Canada labour code, I wonder what steps the minister has taken to make sure the same difficulties do not arise with respect to the observance of July 1.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that the matter is receiving top priority attention by the minister.

HEALTH AND WELFAREMEDICARE—ACCEPTANCE BY PROVINCES OF
CONDITIONS RESPECTING FEDERAL
CONTRIBUTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): I wish to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare arising out of the notice in yesterday's *Votes and Proceedings* that the minister intends to propose a measure authorizing the federal government to make contributions to the provinces for medical care insurance plans. I wish to ask the minister whether any or all of the provinces have agreed to the conditions under which these payments will be made by the federal government.