

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

minister advise if he has now communicated with the Premier of Prince Edward Island regarding the spirting away to Newfoundland of the largest and newest ship of the Prince Edward Island-New Brunswick ferry fleet, and has he given firm and formal assurance that this boat will return to service between Borden and Cape Tormentine annually from October to May?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to the question the hon. member asks may I say I have had extensive conversations on the telephone with the Premier of Prince Edward Island. As is his custom he expressed great concern for the well-being of the province of Prince Edward Island which he directs so well—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Jamieson:**—and certainly I really did not need a copy of the earlier proposed motion because it is verbatim almost as if it were taken from a much earlier submission on this subject made by the Premier of Prince Edward Island to me. I am preparing a reply to that now with a view to having it tabled. I will be glad to table it in the House as he will do in Prince Edward Island.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** The minister advised my colleague from Calgary North that he was considering legislation against pirating of aircraft. Is he doing something about the pirating of ships?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, in the same connection may I say I resent—and I might phrase this as a point of order—the suggestion that perhaps my motion was in some way an attempt to repeat the earlier representations from the Premier of Prince Edward Island. In relation to my supplementary, in connection with the two new ferries that supposedly are to go into service in May, one in the early part and one in the latter part of May, will the minister give assurance to the people of Prince Edward Island that no substantial change will be made in the car-ferry service until both these ferries have proven themselves, as I believe—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Jamieson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can give that assurance. I have already given it to the hon. member for Hillsborough before the Committee on Transport on two separate occasions. Any proposals for changes in the ferry services will not be carried through until such time as the new ferries are operating satisfactorily. I have also given the commitment that we will certainly make sure the service to P.E.I. is maintained at a high level.

[Later:]

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** I wanted to ask the Minister of Transport whether he can assure the House, and especially members from Prince Edward

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

Island, that the acquisition of the new ferry, the *John Hamilton Gray*, will increase the carrying capacity of those ships servicing the gulf to the point where substantially increased quantities of P.E.I. produce moving into Newfoundland will be carried?

**Mr. Jamieson:** That is part of the plan, Mr. Speaker; indeed, we have started on that already. There is a subvention provided for that in the estimates at present.

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps the hon. member for Egmont might be allowed to ask a last supplementary.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** In view of the possible transfer and possible renaming of the ship, I wonder whether the name "Benedict Arnold" has been considered?

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Can the minister indicate whether the *John Hamilton Gray* has been renamed Joseph R. Smallwood? If not, can he—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

\* \* \*

#### NATIONAL DEFENCE

DOCKYARD EMPLOYEES WAGE DISPUTE—INQUIRY AS TO MEETING OF PARTIES

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** Mr. Speaker, my short question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Can he indicate whether negotiations will resume soon between his department and the striking east and west coast ship repair workers?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to reassure the hon. gentleman that there will be conversations tomorrow, Wednesday, between the dockyards' council and Treasury Board.

\* \* \*

#### TRADE

POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRAL MINERAL EXPORT AGENCY

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can he advise the House whether his department has been meeting with industry to discuss the establishment and/or need for a centralized Canadian mineral export agency?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, and I have checked.