

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: I hardly think that this question is so urgent, and the hon. member may agree to put it on the order paper. If he feels I am making a mistake, he may bring it up at ten o'clock.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I am putting this question precisely in view of the fact that the C.N.T.U., through its television and film employees union, is to appear in the next few days before the Canada Labour Relations Board. Consequently, it is urgent to know whether the mother tongue and the rights of these workers will be recognized.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has made representations to the minister.

[English]

HOUSING**REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO STIMULATE SPRING STARTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, in view of the continuing housing crisis in the country I would ask the Minister of Labour whether the government is seriously considering acting on the measures discussed in the speech from the throne, in order to stimulate spring housing starts.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is much too general in its terms and cannot be accepted.

Mr. Grafftey: It is not very general when you are looking for a house; it is a very specific problem.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Later:]

Mr. J. R. Keays (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the government house leader. In view of the great emphasis on housing in Canada and its problems, is the government giving consideration to setting up the standing committee on public works and housing so that we may go into this problem thoroughly and try and find some solution to it?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the matter of house committees is under consideration.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[Mr. Grégoire.]

FISHERIES**NOVA SCOTIA—POSSIBLE EXTENT OF STORM DAMAGE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. I wonder whether the minister could advise the house of the extent of the storm damage sustained by lobster fishermen particularly on the eastern and western shores of Nova Scotia; and could he advise the house whether the damage is of such proportions that the government might consider taking some immediate action to offset the loss of the season?

Hon. H.-J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I am fully aware that there have been a series of storms in that section of Nova Scotia which have caused serious damage to the lobster traps. I have asked the officials of my department to assess the damage and report at the earliest possible date. I am sure the hon. member is aware of the fact that any loss or disaster of this kind is also a responsibility of the province in assessing the damage and making representations to the federal government if it is found that the damage sustained is of disaster proportion and is away beyond the means of the provincial government to deal with.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION RESPECTING CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. Now that we have had the throne speech and the Cape Breton Development Corporation has been mentioned, can the right hon. gentleman advise us what position this legislation has on the house agenda and how soon we may expect such legislation to be introduced?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we are making progress and will be able to make an announcement shortly.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. May I ask him whether the personnel of the corporation will be appointed prior to or after the introduction of the legislation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt that this question is in order.