

Inquiries of the Ministry

Transport. Can the minister say what his department is doing to meet the requirements of safety in the manning of ships in the great lakes and St. Lawrence river systems?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have received what are represented to be urgent representations on this subject from the president of the S.I.U. I am writing a detailed reply to his letter today, and I shall be pleased to table it tomorrow.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): As a supplementary question, may I ask the minister whether it would not be more worth while to take some definitive action and promulgate some regulations?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, a great deal of action has been taken, is being taken, and is going to continue to be taken—

Mr. Howard: Nuts.

Mr. Pickersgill: Well, if we deal with facts we will get a lot further than if we deal with allegations.

Mr. Howard: You are not telling the truth, Jack.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There is a suggestion by hon. members that a remark I did not hear should be withdrawn.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, the remarks I used in response to the minister's statement were, one, that it was nuts and, two, that he was not telling the truth.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is the second time today that the hon. member for Skeena has come very close to infringing the rules of the house. I believe the rules are made for all members of the house, and no one is exempt from them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: I really do not think the hon. member can say that in replying to a question the minister is not telling the truth.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, I am the first one to agree that the rules apply to everyone, and I wish they applied to the Minister of Transport as well—

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Howard: Keep your shirts on. If the rules are such that they require that I withdraw the allegation that the minister is not telling the truth, then I will comply with those rules, but it has no bearing on the facts as I know them.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to suggest that you enforce the rules in the case of the hon. gentleman. His record and my record are both well known to the house, and I am quite happy to leave it there.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: As my final word I would ask the co-operation of the hon. member for Skeena.

Mr. Howard: I would agree, and I don't want to mix the two records up.

Mr. Fairweather: There is no danger of that.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): As a supplementary question, will the promised action by the minister also take into consideration dismissing Mr. McLaughlin from the S.I.U., who was improperly allowed to run for office by the seaway trustees when he should not have been allowed to?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, that is not within my responsibilities, and I always stay within my own responsibilities.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REPORTED STATEMENT RESPECTING
TELEVISION OF DEBATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio in relation to a statement he made in Montreal yesterday. I would like to ask the minister whether he was indicating government intentions when he stated that all house debates should be televised on a special high frequency channel?

Hon. John N. Turner (Member of the Administration): Mr. Speaker, I do not know any one in the house who could bring parliament home to the people better and in more dramatic fashion than the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Would the minister inform the house whether, on a statement as