

a position today to give an answer to my inquiry?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The National Harbours Board and the department have been in direct communication with the trans-Pacific freight conference of Japan directly and through our embassy in Tokyo with respect to the announcement of the intended 15 per cent surcharges on freight rates to the port of Vancouver.

Their attention has been drawn to the marked improvement in operating conditions in that port, which are being restored to normal. The conference recognizes that conditions have considerably improved, and it is hoped that the threat of surcharges has been removed.

Mr. Fulton: The minister has answered, as I understand it, with regard to the proposed surcharge by the Japanese conference. I understand a similar surcharge has been proposed by the conference working out of San Francisco. Does the minister's reply extend also to that proposed increase?

Mr. Winters: That one is under protest, Mr. Speaker, and I express the hope the same answer will apply. I am not certain on that point as yet.

TRADE

CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN MEETING RESPECTING LATIN AMERICAN COMMON MARKET

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): A question was asked yesterday by the hon. member for Okanagan-Revelstoke about a meeting in April in Uruguay designed to set up a common market for 19 Latin American nations. The question was about Canada's participation. I understand that a tentative meeting is being called for next April by 20 American republics which are members of the Organization of American States. Among the subjects which may be discussed is a proposal that the still developing Latin American free trade association be converted into a Latin American common market as rapidly as possible. Canada is not a member of the Latin American free trade association, and is not involved in the April meeting.

23033—846j

Inquiries of the Ministry

NATIONAL DEFENCE

POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF CANADIAN COMMITMENTS UNDER NATO AND NORAD

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Speaker, if I could get his attention. Yesterday I framed a question in the rather confused style of the minister's answers, and I made a mistake. Today I want to put it in my own style. Is it the government's intention to reduce our commitments to NATO and NORAD and make the peace keeping activities under the United Nations the main effort of our armed forces?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles: Why not?

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

INQUIRY AS TO POSSESSION OF COLOUR TELEVISION SET BY MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Halifax): My question is for the Secretary of State. I wonder if she would be kind enough to answer certain rumours that are going around by advising the house whether she has one of those infamous colour television sets, either in her office or her apartment?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): Sure; I have one in my office, as any minister responsible for the C.B.C. has always had.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A question on this subject was put on the order paper and answered.

WOMEN

PROPOSED B.C. LEGISLATION PERMITTING WORK IN MINES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I have a question for our Secretary of State for External Affairs which arises out of his having ratified last fall, on behalf of Canada, an I.L.O. convention having to do with the prohibition of women working in mines. I should like to ask the minister whether he is aware that a bill which will allow women to work in mines has been introduced into the legislature of British Columbia. If so, can he