

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

With respect to the international commission in Viet Nam, the Canadian government considers that since a political settlement has not yet been reached in that country, the commission there still has a task to perform. We are therefore anxious to continue our participation in the work of that commission and thereby contribute to the peace and stability of that area.

With respect to Cambodia, more than two years ago, as the hon. member no doubt recalls, the Canadian delegation to the commission in Cambodia tabled a resolution calling for the dissolution of that commission which, in the opinion of the Canadian government, had completed its task. However, because this resolution was not supported by the Indian and Polish delegations but particularly, I am informed, because the royal Cambodian government requested the commission to remain, no further action was taken at that time or has since been taken.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** May I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if, in view of the situation in Cambodia which he has just described, he does not think a further attempt should be made toward the dissolution of the commission in that country? Perhaps he would be prepared to look at the matter and give us a statement later.

**Mr. Smith (Hastings-Frontenac):** Mr. Speaker, in reply, I should like to see the Laos situation dealt with first, but I will look into it.

**CANADIAN PACIFIC STEAMSHIPS****BRITISH COLUMBIA—REPORTED POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVED SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport which perhaps could be taken as notice in his absence and answered when he returns. Has the Department of Transport received a report from Canadian Pacific Steamships relative to the operation of steamships between the mainland of British Columbia and Vancouver island to the effect that a more efficient and faster service between the two points is possible? If so, what plan does the department have for the institution of such a service?

**Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and see that it is brought to the attention of the minister concerned.

[Mr. Smith (Hastings-Frontenac).]

**LABOUR CONDITIONS****ST. JOHNS, QUE.—REPORTED CESSATION OF OPERATIONS OF SINGER SEWING MACHINE COMPANY**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Alan Macnaughton (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Labour. I regret that I did not have an opportunity to give the hon. lady notice of my intention to ask this question. Is the minister aware that the Singer Sewing Machine Company of St. Johns, Quebec, has closed down its operations, and that as a result many persons are out of work? Has she any comment to make as to the reasons for the closing down of this plant?

**Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Acting Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, that information has not come to my desk as yet, but I rather fancy that would be under provincial jurisdiction, would it not?

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****STATEMENT ON BENEFIT PAYMENT FIGURES**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Acting Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to answer a question which was asked by the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate on June 2, as recorded at page 725 of *Hansard*. The unemployment insurance commission has just completed a special survey made throughout Canada to obtain the number of active claimants for unemployment insurance benefits as of May 31, 1958. The total number of active claimants at that date was 550,959. Of this total there were 367,942 claimants for regular benefits and 183,017 claimants for seasonal benefits. These figures, I might add, compare with a total of 722,252 active claimants on April 30, 1958, comprising 495,382 regular benefit claimants and 226,870 seasonal benefit claimants.

The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, as he will recall, asked for the number of persons receiving benefits. Because of the varying frequency of payments—some weekly, some bi-monthly and some even less frequently in more remote areas—and because of the continuing turnover of those receiving benefit, it is much more difficult to obtain an accurate estimate of those receiving benefit than of those claiming benefit. Accordingly the figures assembled cover, as I have said, the numbers actively claiming benefits as at May 31, 1958.

**STATEMENT ON MONTHLY STATISTICS**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Acting Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I would also like to