

Mr. Laing: This is a major job. There was difficulty with the first protective pipe that was ordered and that caused a delay of some three or four months. My engineers now tell me that it may be August 1 before the docks are completed at each end. This is an embarrassment to us because we understand the ship is going to be commissioned very shortly.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): A supplementary question to the minister. In view of the fact that a private company, the CPR, has invested a tremendous amount of money in this vessel and as the heavy tourist season is very important to them, will the minister give the assurance that alternative sites will be considered and, if necessary, have full discussions with the company in this regard?

Mr. Laing: Mr. Speaker, we are in communication with the company now and foresee the possibility of accelerating the work and accommodating the company at the earliest possible time. I want to remind my hon. friend that the people of Canada also have a tremendous investment in these two docks.

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INDUSTRY

TIRES—CHANGES IN TARIFF STRUCTURE

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo): My question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Are changes being considered in the Canadian tariff structure with regard to tires? I refer to changes affecting tire manufacturers other than Michelin.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Saltzman: Could the minister indicate what those changes are? If he is not in a position to indicate this today, perhaps he can tell us when he will make a statement?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions I have referred to the general purpose of our project of rationalization of the tire industry in Canada. I have referred to the 160-odd types of tires that we produce constituting 6 per cent of the Canadian production. The need for rationalization is recognized by everybody. My hon. friend is familiar with our approach, that is, the allowance of imports of certain types of tires tariff free in return for concentration on certain types of tires for the domestic and for export markets. That is the same approach as the one taken by the Minister of Finance in the case of Michelin. Our department is working hard on that project.

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HEALTH

INCLUDING OF NURSING AND CUSTODIAL CARE HOMES UNDER HOSPITALIZATION PLAN

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): My question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare,

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker. Some time ago I asked the minister what progress was being made in bringing nursing and custodial care homes under hospitalization, thus relieving the terrible distress and anxiety of older citizens who find themselves without money or a place to go when discharged from hospital. If the minister has not got a ready answer, perhaps he will make a statement on motions on Monday.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): That is not necessary, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of the question. The whole question of including such institutions under hospitalization, which would widen the legislative framework of that particular Act, is under review now with the health ministers. If we arrive at such a conclusion it would be subject to the approval of the government and we would have to come back to the House. In the meantime, I would remind the hon. member that those in need of custodial care can qualify for cost-sharing under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Mr. Rynard: I wonder if the minister is aware just how long it takes that operation to get going.

Mr. Munro: It is going right now.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

ESKASONI RESERVE—PROVISION OF HOUSES

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development but in his absence and because of the urgency of the matter I should like to direct it to the first minister. In view of the information relayed in the House a few days ago by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in reference to the urgent requirement for housing on the Eskasoni reserve in Nova Scotia, the largest reserve in the Atlantic provinces, that 29 new houses will be constructed and in view of the information contained in the telegram from Chief Dan K. Stevens that 15 houses only have been approved in the budget whereas 47 houses are required for families who have no homes or housing whatsoever, would the Prime Minister not only take this question as notice but also urge that an investigation into this urgent matter be carried out immediately?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will do the former, Mr. Speaker, and then I will decide if the latter is necessary.

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TRANSPORT

SUGGESTED USE OF LIGHT ON HALIFAX MONUMENT AS SIGNAL FOR SHIPPING

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): I have a question for the Minister of National Defence and I have