

INQUIRY AS TO PAY INCREASES FOR CERTAIN
STAFF MEMBERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. A. Webb (Hastings-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Acting Minister of Finance whether further consideration is going to be given to an increase in salary for the barbers, locksmiths, carpenters, upholsterers and furniture finishers, who I understand are the only employees of the house who have not received an increase? There are approximately 10 men involved in these trades.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman is under the misapprehension that I am Acting Minister of Finance. I am not. I do not think the acting minister knows the answer to the question any more than I do, but one of us will make inquiries and give an answer later today.

Mr. Nowlan: This comes under the commissioners of internal economy.

Mr. Pickersgill: I might just say that I have been advised by the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings, who was paying closer attention than I was, that this would be a matter for the commissioners of internal economy. I am one of them and His Honour is the chairman, and I am sure His Honour will ask to have the matter considered.

Mr. Speaker: May I reply by saying that the matter is under consideration at the present time.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

CONSIDERATION OF BRIEF OF RAILWAY RUNNING
TRADES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Labour a question, notice of which I gave him a few days ago. My question relates to a brief presented to him two weeks ago by the national legislative committee of the railway running trades. I should like to ask the minister what reply or what consideration he has given to the recommendations in this brief, particularly those asking for alterations in the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act so as to give railway workers better protection in branch line abandonment and run-through areas.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is correct in that the Minister of Transport and I had a meeting with these gentlemen some time ago at which a brief was presented making a number of recommendations, including certain

Inquiries of the Ministry

amendments to the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act and a request to have an industrial inquiry commission set up to investigate certain phases of this particular problem.

At that time the Minister of Transport and I had a very useful discussion with the representatives involved. Up to the present it has not been possible for me to reach a decision and make a possible proposal to the government on the matter, but it will receive attention as quickly as possible.

Mr. Fisher: A supplementary question. Is the idea of an inquiry still in the minister's mind?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, it is still there.
(Translation):

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

MONTREAL—PROPOSED CHANGE IN PROJECT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. Following the answer he gave previously to a question, can the minister tell the house when a final decision will be reached in respect to the trans-Canada highway project in the Montreal area, following discussions at a meeting with the provincial minister of highways.

Hon. J. P. Deschatelets (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, we must be supplied with some technical information by the Quebec government before a decision can be reached concerning a change in the layout of the trans-Canada highway in Montreal.

(Text):

GRAIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA—AUTHORIZATION OF
DELIVERIES OUTSIDE QUOTA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of a recent decision of the Canadian wheat board, as reported in this morning's *Globe and Mail*, to authorize permit holders at five delivery points in British Columbia to make deliveries of wheat, oats and barley outside the existing quota, would the minister explain to the house the reasons for this action in view of the serious implications involved?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I regret that I am not able to explain the reasons for the wheat board action at this moment. I am in touch