

Oral Questions

do have defence orders that are being undertaken by the company at the present time.

Mr. McKenzie: Since the Department of National Defence was involved in the initial arrangements regarding the setting up of this company, can the Minister of Transport give us any information on these lay-offs and tell us whether there will be future contracts?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will inquire whether there will be contracts and make a report to the hon. gentleman.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

**POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT POSITION
RESPECTING REGIONAL PAY RATES IN LIGHT OF
DISPUTE WITH DOCKYARD WORKERS**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the President of the Treasury Board. It arises out of press reports this morning indicating a breakdown in negotiations between the Dockyard Trades and Labour Council and his departmental officials. In light of this breakdown, largely over the question of regional pay rates, can the minister say whether the government is at least considering a movement away from the rigidity of its position with respect to prevailing rates so as to avoid an unnecessary and possibly prolonged walkout which would have the consequence of tying up virtually all of the Canadian Armed Forces maritime capability?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am as eager as anyone in this House to avoid any kind of tie-up, walkout or prolonged period of indecision, but I am sure the hon. gentleman would not want to have me interfere with the normal bargaining process. The next step is to proceed through the conciliation process as provided in the law.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North.

Mr. Forrestall: A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North but the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East has a supplementary.

Mr. Forrestall: Can I construe the minister's statement as meaning that the government is not prepared to move away from its oft-stated position with respect to the principle of regional prevailing rates? Do I understand him correctly on that?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that interpretation should be placed, by any reasonable person, on my remarks. I merely say that we should proceed through the normal business of conciliation rather than negotiating on the floor of the House.

[Mr. Richardson.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would invite hon. members to limit supplementaries. The hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North has a supplementary to a question asked much earlier during the question period. He will be recognized after the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East who I believe has a last supplementary.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion whether or not, in light of the government's position that regional disparities should be removed, he has made any overtures or is prepared to make overtures with respect to eliminating archaic wage disparities?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I would have to have more specific information before answering. Generally speaking, no incentives are offered, or indeed granted, unless at the very minimum the wage laws of the particular province concerned are adhered to.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North and then go to another subject.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

**POLICE AND SECURITY PLANNING AND ANALYSIS
GROUP—INQUIRY AS TO DIRECTIVE TO RCMP TO
CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS OF UNIONS FOR GROUP**

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a further question, for clarification purposes, to the Solicitor General. Has the government given a directive to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to carry out investigations at the direction of the police and security planning and analysis group that would permit the police and security planning and analysis group to maintain files of information on union activities and union leaders, with such files available to the cabinet through the minister?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): To the best of my knowledge, no, Mr. Speaker, but I will check this out. Generally speaking—as a matter of fact, I think this is the rule—the group does not give instructions to the RCMP to carry out investigations but receives information from the RCMP. As I say, I will check this out for the hon. member.

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FLOODS

**LAKES ERIE AND ONTARIO—PAYMENT BY
MUNICIPALITIES FOR USE OF ARMED FORCES—REQUEST
THAT POLICY BE CHANGED**

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Peel South): Mr. Speaker, last week I posed a question to the Minister of National Defence about the use of the Canadian Armed Forces in connection with the emergency situation along the shores of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. I now find out from the Emergency Measures Organization that the municipalities involved must reimburse the government for the use of