

my hon. friend that I will press those concerned to continue with this very valuable program in a determination to reduce the number of accidents both on the highways and at level crossings.

FISHERIES

INQUIRY AS TO PROSPECTIVE PRICES FOR SEALSKINS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Chatwood (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. I should like to ask him whether, as a result of the discussions the officials of his department had in Europe, he can now give an assurance that the sealers will be able to obtain a fair price for pelts during the coming season.

Hon. H.-J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, it is true that sealskins presently are moving slowly and are being sold at reduced prices. In fact the area where there is the greatest difficulty in selling is in the disposition of white coats. While we expect the production of white coats to be reduced during the coming seal season, I cannot at this time give assurance that the damage done to this industry by exaggerated and distorted publicity will not have some adverse effect on the market in the months ahead.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

FEDERAL REPRESENTATION AT MEETING RESPECTING ATLANTIC REGION LAY-OFFS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. As a new minister who is energetic and desirous of learning about the transportation problems of the maritimes, will the minister be attending the meeting to be held tomorrow night in Moncton concerning C.N.R. lay-offs and, if not, why not?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am interested. I try to be energetic and try to learn as quickly as I can, but I regret that I will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow night.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, can the minister say whether any of his colleagues will be attending the meeting, since it seems to be an important one affecting the economy of the whole Atlantic region.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member for Westmorland and the hon. member for York South will be attending. I am not sure who else will be able to go, but I do know that the hon. member for Westmorland will acquit herself very ably.

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does that mean that the hon. member for York South will be representing the government too?

Mr. Hellyer: It will depend a lot on what he says.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

REPORTED LINK BETWEEN CONTRACEPTIVE PILL AND THROMBOSIS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Ballard (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I wish to bring to his attention a report by a very eminent English coroner to the effect that there is a direct link between the contraceptive pill and thrombosis which causes death.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Ballard: When I hear the laughter I wonder whether the same people were laughing when the thalidomide pill was discussed in this house. With that preface I should like to ask the minister to inform the house whether officers of his department are investigating this report in an attempt to determine any detrimental or fatal effects of this pill.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to discuss the question with the officers of my department and report later to my hon. friend.

GRAIN

PROPOSED INCREASE IN AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR CASH ADVANCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. R. Southam (Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture which I believe involves a matter of urgency. In spite of the glowing report given by the minister last evening on the state of agriculture in Canada, in view of the dire cash shortage suffered by western farmers due to the loss of wheat markets would the minister give serious consideration