

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CANADIAN CONFEDERATION**COMMUNICATION BETWEEN OTTAWA AND  
QUEBEC RESPECTING REFERENDUM

[Translation]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister was asked about the constitutionality of a referendum to be held in the province of Quebec, following a promise by Premier Jean-Jacques Bertrand, in connection with separatism.

Has the premier of the province of Quebec communicated with the Prime Minister of Canada concerning the holding of a referendum in the province of Quebec in order to clearly define the positions?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Not formally, Mr. Speaker. I seem to recall that the matter has been raised before by the premier of the province of Quebec, but not in an official capacity.

[English]

**SHIPBUILDING**COLLINGWOOD, ONT.—PLANS TO RETAIN  
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe):** I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Transport. Did the minister receive a resolution directed to the Prime Minister by the Collingwood town council expressing anxiety and alarm with respect to the situation in the shipbuilding industry in which 900 residents of that town are employed? Does the minister share this concern, and does he have any plans or proposals which would protect the jobs of these people?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, in reply to the second part of the question I think I indicated some measure of my concern in the announcement made earlier today. As for the submission, I believe it was directed to the minister of industry.

**TRANSPORT**SUSPENSION OF SERVICE BY QUEBEC NORTH  
SHORE AND LABRADOR RAILWAY

**Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware of the serious situation prevailing in the towns of Labrador City and Wabush, Newfoundland, in that due to a

[Mr. Winch.]

strike in the province of Quebec the operation of the Quebec North Shore and Labrador Railway has been suspended, thus cutting off the only means, apart from air, of bringing in vital supplies?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I think this is a question that might be considered at the time of adjournment. But if it is a matter that the hon. member feels should be answered immediately rather than at the time of adjournment, I would allow the minister to reply to the question.

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, my reply is to the effect that I received a petition this morning from, I believe it was, the chamber of commerce of that community. An investigation is now under way to determine what the needs are and whether they are as widespread as stated, as well as what alternate means of providing transportation can be found.

**Mr. Peddle:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister consider the decision of the Labrador West chamber of commerce that the minister or his representative go into the area to assess the situation at first hand.

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, if that appeared to be the wisest course, yes.

**LABOUR RELATIONS**

## LABRADOR—ACTION TAKEN TO ASSESS CRISIS

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Acting Minister of Labour what action is being taken by his department to assess the labour crisis which is facing Labrador as the result of a related strike.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to take this question as notice for the Minister of Labour, but I think these employees are under provincial jurisdiction.

[Translation]

**VETERANS AFFAIRS**

## WOODS REPORT—REQUEST FOR PRESENTATION

**Mr. Gérald Laniel (Beauharnois):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

Since we are approaching the date of adjournment, June 27, and the house will