

minister to suggest to General Steel Wares, the potential purchasers, that they seek an extension. I am waiting until after the question period to meet with my deputy. I have no reason to believe that that extension will not be sought. I have had representations from various groups which the Minister of Labour has brought here and I have given them that assurance that we will look for the extension. If it occurs, then further discussions will continue, starting I believe tomorrow, with representatives of GSW and then the other companies involved in subsequent days over whatever the period of extension is.

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BROADCASTING

ESTABLISHMENT OF FRENCH LANGUAGE TELEVISION STATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—REQUEST THAT WORK ON TRANSMITTER BE STOPPED

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Minister of Communications. In view of the fact the CRTC hearings will not be held in Vancouver until February to decide whether or not British Columbia should have a French language television station can the minister assure the House that all work is stopped in respect of setting up the transmitter on Mount Seymour for that station?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Communications): I cannot, Mr. Speaker, but I can assure the hon. member that the question of any broadcasting would depend upon a proper license.

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TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON DREDGING POLICY

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have question for the Minister of Transport.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Paproski: All the ministers on the other side are so amiable today I am sure they will answer all our questions. I know the Minister of Transport will answer me. Does the minister plan to make a statement on motions as to what he plans to do on the impasse in respect of dredging in Canada and when can we expect some statement from the minister?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): I have no present intention of making a statement.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, since the former Minister of Transport has said on numerous occasions that the Department of Transport is in a mess and in light of the high cost of construction of Mirabel as well as the multi-million dollars spent on consultant fees, would the present minister like to comment on his department and say it is a lucrative, benevolent mess; yes or no?

● (1450)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Capilano.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON INVESTIGATION

Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Further to the announcement the minister made last May about an inquiry into certain problems surrounding the SIU, is he now in a position to report on the results of that investigation and whether there have been any changes in the personnel who were originally charged?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member may be aware that the RCMP were called in to conduct an investigation. I assume the investigation is continuing. If the hon. member wants further details, I believe he should direct his question to the Solicitor General.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ALLEGED REQUEST OF ONTARIO CORONER FOR ASSISTANCE IN INVESTIGATING SHOOTING INCIDENT IN OTTAWA—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. In light of recent tragic events and the concern expressed publicly by the supervising coroner of Ontario, would the Solicitor General undertake to give the assistance of his department to the supervising coroner of Ontario, should he request it, with regard to the tragic events which took place in Ottawa just recently?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I must tell the House that I have not yet received any invitation from the coroner either by telegram, telephone or by any other method whatsoever. I find it rather unusual that he should issue invitations to me in a challenging way through the public press. If we do receive an invitation, we would consider it seriously.

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AIRPORTS

TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT WITH PORTERS—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO SAVE EMPLOYMENT

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the minister in charge of Air Canada, among other things. When I was in Toronto this morning porters brought to my attention the fact that as a result of the cancellation of the porter agreement which has taken place, these porters, despite in some cases many years of good service—some up to 20 years and beyond—have received notices of dismissal. Will the minister look into this matter? Apparently an American com-