

*Inquiries of the Ministry***AGRICULTURE****INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—FEDERAL INTERVENTION
IN PROCEEDINGS BEFORE SUPREME COURT RESPECT-
ING VALIDITY OF PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS**

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the very forthright Minister of Justice if he has instructed, or if the government has instructed, counsel to intervene in the litigation involving the validity of provincial regulations restricting interprovincial trade which were passed by the provinces of Quebec and Manitoba? Has he instructed counsel to appear and oppose the legality of those regulations?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is talking about the appeal from the Court of Appeal of Manitoba on that type of legislation, the federal government will appear before the Supreme Court of Canada in that case.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, will the minister assure the House categorically now that the instructions which will be given to counsel will be to oppose the legality of these regulations, and not sit idly by and watch this problem in connection with national unity become worse?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I think the proper place for counsel to reveal his position on behalf of the Department of Justice is before the court.

Mr. Baldwin: On a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, I am asking the government to reveal its position.

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a further supplementary question to the Minister of Justice. Can he advise the House how soon this appeal will be heard by the Supreme Court of Canada?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, as it is a very important case I imagine the Supreme Court would want to put it on the preferential list, but that is up to the court.

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COMMUNICATIONS**INCLUSION ON AGENDA OF JUNE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL
CONFERENCE IN LIGHT OF STATEMENT BY QUEBEC
MINISTER**

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister say whether, in view of the statement of the Quebec Minister of Communications which one of the Prime Minister's own colleagues has termed rather flabbergasting, the subject of federal authority over communications will be a specific item on the agenda of the federal-provincial conference to be held in Victoria in June?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): There has been no request that the matter be put on the agenda, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Benson.]

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State. Has the Secretary of State, who speaks for the Canadian Radio-Television Commission, submitted a proposal to the Prime Minister that this matter be placed on the agenda of the federal-provincial conference in June in view of the extensive remarks which the Quebec Minister of Communications made last weekend, regardless of what he said the weekend before, which clearly challenge federal authority in this field?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member who has just spoken sees clearly what threats arise from these speeches and on which particular points and group of points the minister wants to instigate changes, I must admit that he has been able to consider the minister's statements for longer than I have or with greater concentration. Indeed, from one statement to the next, growing confusion persists regarding the minister's intentions, and that is why I, myself, have not been able to submit any clear proposal to the attention of the government.

[English]

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a further supplementary question to the Secretary of State. When the Secretary of State has time to translate the statement of the provincial Minister of Communications, or to talk to the federal Minister of Communications to find out what the Minister of Communications in Quebec is saying about this important matter, would he be prepared to make a statement in the House on the position of the federal government, prior to the federal-provincial conference, as to whether this matter is going to be discussed at that conference, or are we going to witness another example of the federal government abdicating its jurisdiction and responsibility as it has with agriculture?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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LABOUR RELATIONS**DISPUTE BETWEEN HUDSON BAY MINING AND SMELTING
COMPANY AND EMPLOYEES—DEPARTMENTAL ACTION**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Can he say whether he or the officials of his department are taking any new steps to bring an end to the dispute at Flin Flon which has continued for so many months?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I had a chat late last week with the hon. member for Churchill, as well as with the Minister of Labour of Manitoba, about the prolonged strike at Flin Flon, and I am now contemplating the establishment of an industrial inquiry commission, if necessary, later in the week. At least, this is one of the areas I am now investigating.