

Inquiries of the Ministry

now exists in the Thetford Mines area, concerning the merger of two or three asbestos mines?

[Text]

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): No, Mr. Speaker, I have no communication on that subject from the Quebec government.

LABOUR RELATIONS

NORTHLAND NAVIGATION LIMITED—SIGNING OF AGREEMENT WITH S.I.U.

On the orders of the day:

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, while I am on my feet may I answer a question asked by the hon. member for Kootenay West regarding the presumed signing of an agreement between the S.I.U. and Northland Navigation Company Limited.

It is not the role of the trustees to approve or disapprove any agreements entered into by unions under trusteeship, though they are entitled under the law, as the hon. member realizes, to tender advice to bargaining committees or to designate officers to act on such committees where they do not exist.

In the particular case reported by the hon. member for Kootenay West I am advised that a memorandum of understanding has been concluded to be placed before the membership and, if ratified, an agreement between the S.I.U. and the Northland company will be signed. This is a renewal of an existing agreement. Its acceptance or rejection is up to the membership of the union itself, and naturally members of any other union will have no opportunity to determine what action the S.I.U. itself will take on this agreement.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the information, but is this memorandum of agreement approved by the trustees?

Mr. MacEachen: On that specific point, Mr. Speaker, I do not think the trustees have indicated either approval or disapproval of the memorandum itself. I realize the circumstances in which my hon. friend is interested, and I can understand the relationship which may exist between this memorandum and the negotiations undertaken by the other union. I know there is a relationship, but the membership of the S.I.U. must itself ultimately

[Mr. Langlois.]

determine whether the agreement is or is not a good agreement.

SHIPPING

MONTREAL—FEDERAL PARTICIPATION IN STUDY OF WATER LEVELS

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I undertook to try to have an answer today to the question asked by the hon. member for Chapleau concerning a meeting to be held on June 30 regarding the water level in the port of Montreal.

I believe the hon. member is referring to a meeting organized by the port council of Montreal. I understand that the Minister of Transport and the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources will both be present at least for part of the meeting, and that officials of a number of interested government departments will be participating.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT

ADDRESS REQUESTING AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR SURVIVORS' AND DISABILITY BENEFITS

The house resumed, from Thursday, June 18, consideration of the motion of Mr. Pearson:

That a humble address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen in the following words:

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty:
Most Gracious Sovereign:

We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Canada in parliament assembled, humbly approach Your Majesty, praying that you may graciously be pleased to cause a measure to be laid before the parliament of the United Kingdom to be expressed as follows:

An act to amend the British North America Act 1867.

Whereas the Senate and House of Commons of Canada in parliament assembled have submitted an address to Her Majesty praying that Her Majesty may graciously be pleased to cause a measure to be laid before the parliament of the United Kingdom for the enactment of the provisions hereinafter set forth:

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Amendment as to legislation respecting old age pensions. 30 & 31 Vict., c. 3; 9 Eliz. II, c. 2.

1. Section ninety four A of the British North America Act, 1867 is hereby repealed and the following substituted therefor: