

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. In fact, we did so in Brussels in November of last year. In addition, as I have advised the House from time to time, we are presently working on considerable and substantial changes in the Canada Shipping Act which will have the effect of bringing about the improvements that Dr. McTaggart-Cowan along with others, myself included, agreed with.

Mr. Aiken: Can the minister indicate when these amendments may be ready for consideration by the House?

Mr. Jamieson: I wish I could be precise, Mr. Speaker. I would question very much if it will be possible to have the entire legislation completed during the current session. What I would hope, however, is that we could table the changes or make them public in some way so that there would be time over the next couple of months for the various interests to comment on them.

CHEDABUCTO BAY—COST OF REMOVING OIL

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova): Are reports correct that the pollution from the *Arrow* will cost the people of Canada about \$3 million?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, no final figure or assessment has been possible yet because the work is still going on. I can certainly say that not all of the amount will be a burden that will have to be borne by the Canadian people. There is a very considerable sum that we know has been earmarked out of insurance funds to offset the expenditures. The legal people in my department and the Department of Justice are now examining other routes that we might take to obtain a larger percentage of compensation from those who are responsible, once the inquiry determines in law who those people are.

CHEDABUCTO BAY—PUBLICATION OF TASK FORCE FINDINGS

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Will the research findings of the task force headed by Dr. Patrick McTaggart-Cowan be made public when the minister receives them so that we may have a chance to examine what we hope will be some important new knowledge?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, there are three com-

[Mr. Aiken.]

panion efforts under way. One is the inquiry by Mr. Justice Hart of Nova Scotia into the cause of the grounding of the *Arrow*. Some of the evidence has been published already. Second, Mr. Justice Hart will then proceed to conduct an inquiry into the events that occurred subsequent to the grounding of the *Arrow* and, third, Dr. McTaggart-Cowan is preparing a very comprehensive report along with the other scientists who have been involved in this matter. I expect that the report in the third aspect will be available by about the first of September.

INDUSTRY

MEASURES TO ASSIST AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS FOLLOWING FREEING OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Inasmuch as the recent unpegging of the Canadian dollar will have the effect of providing further advantages for the sale of foreign automobiles in the country and hence further aggravate the depressed condition of the automobile industry in Canada, can the minister say whether any offsetting measures are being considered to assist Canadian automobile manufacturers in light of this development and the current slowdown in the sale of passenger cars in Canada which is affecting the employment situation very considerably?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member may recall that we had a lengthy debate on this very point. Perhaps the hon. member did not receive the information he is seeking. It seems to me that if additional information is to be given at this time, it should be given to the House by way of a statement on motions.

Mr. Mazankowski: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, this matter was not dealt with in the debate. I believe it is a very urgent and pressing problem and I think that the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must say to the hon. member that that is not a question of privilege. I suggest that the information the hon. member is seeking is of a very general nature. If he has not obtained the information which he believes he is entitled to, may I suggest to him that he might ask whether it will be given to the House by way of a statement on motions. The hon. member might like to inquire whether such a statement is being contemplated.