

worth of perishable seed potatoes to traditional as well as major new overseas markets?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I and my officials in my department are certainly aware of the inter-relationship of what is going on at the ports of Saint John and Halifax in terms of the settlements involved there. All the facts surrounding the situation are being made known to the Anti-Inflation Board. I can only hope there will be a satisfactory solution emanating from this review.

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#### CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

##### REASON FOR FAILURE TO MAKE PAYMENTS DUE TO PRERETIRED MINERS

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. In light of the waste and extravagance exposed in the Auditor-General's report, can the minister advise why to date moneys could not be found and why a satisfactory financial arrangement has not been made with the coal miners of Cape Breton who were forcibly pre-retired from their place of employment and shabbily treated in this particular instance by the present government?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, that question should properly be addressed to the minister who is responsible for that area of government operations.

**Mr. Muir:** Mr. Speaker, I regret that the minister, for whom I have the greatest respect and who knows the problems of the working man, would not accept that question. May I ask a supplementary which may be helpful. Will the minister consult with his colleague, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion who, before he became a minister, fully endorsed the claims of the coal miners and Mr. Tom Kent, president of the Cape Breton Development Corporation, and ascertain whether funds can be found to rectify this long standing grievance of these pre-retired miners?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is as forcible a representation as the other one made by the hon. member.

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#### REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

##### PURCHASE OF CRUISE SHIP BY MAGI—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON SUITABILITY OF INVESTMENT

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Does the minister consider it in the best interest of Canadian taxpayers to permit MAGI to go ahead with its investment in a cruise ship to be operated out of the port of Halifax in and around Nova Scotia in the summer and

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in the south in the winter, the ship being registered in Bermuda for the purpose of avoiding Canadian taxation? The ship will be purchased with Canadian dollars but will carry a non-Canadian crew.

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member has just mentioned, and as he is fully aware, the development corporation of metropolitan Halifax was set up with the assistance of the federal and provincial governments and the federal holds 25 per cent of the shares of this corporation. Therefore we are represented by a certain number of directors in the corporation, but the administrative office, as such, makes the decisions and, of course, they are implemented. They are not necessarily sent on to the minister day by day but when the report is before us, Mr. Speaker, I intend to examine it very thoroughly and personally to see if it would be advisable to bring modifications to the guidelines of the corporation.

[English]

**Mr. Forrestall:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I was not looking for a lecture on the establishment of the MAGI. I am quite familiar with how it was established and for what particular purpose. My question is this. Given the high unemployment in the Atlantic provinces, does this government consider it to be in the best interests of Canadian taxpayers to invest money in the supply of two or three hundred jobs for non-Canadians when there is ample crew and labour to do this kind of work in the Atlantic area.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lessard:** Mr. Speaker, if I understand this project right, the crew of that ship will probably come from the Halifax area and that is the area which will benefit from the economic impact. I am not saying that this is the best investment this corporation could make, I am not implying this at all, but the information available is that there will be economic repercussions over the Halifax area and the corporation will keep looking for the best possible investments in that region, as the hon. member has already requested himself.

[English]

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS

##### COMPOSITION OF PROPOSED GROUP TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC ISSUES—POSITION OF CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS

**Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The minister said in his speech on October 28:

One of the first things we want to do is to create a national forum which would discuss and make recommendations on the big economic issues of the day. Such a forum would bring together representatives of government, labour, business, the farm community, possibly others.

With reference to the words "possibly others", what other representatives are contemplated?