

*Inquiries of the Ministry***AGRICULTURE****HOGS—INCENTIVE TO PRODUCE HIGHER QUALITY**

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that the government indicated that the change in hog grading 90 days ago was based on the incentive to improve the breed of hogs rather than the estimated saving of \$2 million, would the minister indicate whether his announcement last week, which will result in a further reduction in the payments made to the producers, was made after consultation with producers' organizations or was it a straight economy move on the part of the government?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the principle of concentrating incentive to produce higher quality hogs has been discussed with the producers' organizations many times, and they have agreed with the principle.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**REQUEST THAT REPORT OF AUDITOR GENERAL BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting President of the Treasury Board. In view of the fact that the 1968 Auditor General's report contains a number of matters which are a continuation of the very interesting subjects that are now engaging the attention of the public accounts committee, would the minister confer with his colleague the President of the Privy Council to see whether it would be possible to make an order today or tomorrow to refer to the Public Accounts Committee the 1968 Auditor General's report? I mention this in view of the Easter recess which may provide an opportunity for members, particularly those with a penchant for horror tales, to read the report.

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to discuss this matter with the President of the Privy Council.

LABOUR RELATIONS**MONTREAL—DISPUTE BETWEEN SHIPPING FEDERATION AND LONGSHOREMEN**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the [Mr. Pepin.]

Minister of Labour. Last night I asked the minister a series of questions relating to the situation in the port of Montreal. Since the minister is in the house today, is he in a position to give the house a statement as to what he foresees in the next few days in regard to keeping this port open?

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, negotiations between the Shipping Federation and the I.L.A. in relation to the ports of Montreal, Trois Rivières and Quebec broke off last night at about eleven o'clock. Owing to the fact that the judge involved, Alan Gold, had been chairing meetings almost continuously for the last 96 hours, both sides agreed that the judge be given an extension of 48 hours in which to prepare a report to be submitted to the Minister of Labour. As the hon. gentleman is aware, upon the receipt of that report both sides will be entitled within seven days either to go on strike or to lock out. In the meantime I have been informed that the port activities are continuing in a very orderly fashion.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): A supplementary question. Would the minister inform the house whether on receipt of the report from the conciliator he is legally empowered to refer it back to the conciliator for further consideration or other action?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I have already done that on several occasions last year. If I were to predict what will happen I would say, in tribute to Judge Alan Gold who has acted as chairman of the arbitration board and at the same time, as chairman of the conciliation board, for 15 months, that knowing the deep interest he has in the port of Montreal I am confident that when I receive the report I will find it to be a complete one, and therefore there would be no reason to return it.

TRANSPORT**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CAUSEWAY—RETENTION OF CONSULTANTS**

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Would he explain why the major consultant firm that is preparing an estimate on the Prince Edward Island causeway has not been told to discontinue its work?