

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

structed, which will be several years. I may say that I had intended, in any event, to announce tomorrow, and the hon. gentleman's question gives me an opportunity to anticipate the announcement, that the contract for the new ferry to operate between North Sydney and Argentia has been let to Marine Industries of Sorel. This vessel, of which an interesting description will be issued tomorrow, is expected to be in service by November, 1967. I think this underlines the importance of acquiring this ferry which happened to turn up in Florida and which I believe is going to meet a very real and urgent need.

As for the broader study mentioned by the hon. gentleman, it was part of the settlement which was made of the longshoremen's strike in St. John's by my colleague, the Minister of Labour (Mr. MacEachen) the other day. There was an undertaking given by the government that not only would we set up an industrial inquiry commission to look into the problem, but that we would inquire into the whole problem of transportation between the mainland and Newfoundland, as forecast as being

necessary by the MacPherson commission. The groundwork for this study is already under way in my department, and the study will be undertaken shortly.

Mr. Scott: Is it possible to ask the minister one question?

Mr. Speaker: I think we could afford one question.

Mr. Scott: Could the minister tell us the specifications of the ferry just announced to carry freight train cars across, and whether the freight handling will be done on the Newfoundland side or the other side?

Mr. Pickersgill: I am afraid the hon. gentleman is rather ahead of me because the specifications for the rail car ferry have not yet been completed. That is one reason we have not called for tenders for this, and it is one of the reasons we are buying the second hand ferry to meet the gap; but I may say the second hand ferry will not be carrying rail cars.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.38 p.m.