

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** A preliminary meeting has been held which was attended by the regional director and, I believe, by representatives of the air administration. Within a few days I shall have, I think, three alternatives—if one can have three alternatives—which will be submitted to the county councils or the group of councils to which the hon. member has referred.

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**NATIONAL HARBOURS BOARD****INQUIRY AS TO TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT—  
CERTIFICATION BY AUDITOR GENERAL**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport with regard to the annual report of the National Harbours Board which is required by statute to be tabled by March 30 each year. Why has the report not been tabled this year? Has it been certified by the Auditor General?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** It will be tabled, I believe, tomorrow. I had a letter from the Auditor General two or three days ago in which he indicated there were certain things with regard to the report which did not enable him to give it the necessary authorization or certification. But it will be tabled this week along with the Auditor General's letter and comments.

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** When the minister tables it, will there be a financial statement certified by the Auditor General?

**Mr. Jamieson:** Rather than seek to answer the question in that form I will simply table the letter along with the documents which have been provided by the National Harbours Board. As I understand it, it is not certified in the sense the hon. member has mentioned, but I am not absolutely certain about the exact use of that word.

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[Translation]

**MANPOWER****QUEBEC—ON THE JOB TRAINING PROGRAM—EFFECTS  
OF DECREE GOVERNING CONSTRUCTION—DISCUSSION  
BETWEEN FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES**

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Since the federal on the job training program is often frustrated by the by-laws governing the building trade in Quebec, I should like to ask the minister if he is aware of that and if he intends to open talks with the Quebec representatives in order to settle this problem and make this program really efficient in all cases?

[English]

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** I must confess I am not aware of any contradic-

[Mr. Gibson.]

tion. I certainly have no meeting planned with my counterpart in the province of Quebec.

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**TRANSPORT****FREIGHT RATE INCREASES—ALLEVIATION OF EFFECT  
ON CAPE BRETON INDUSTRIES**

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In light of the most recent freight rate increase in the Atlantic provinces and in view of a statement by a spokesman for General Instruments of Canada Limited that the potential advantages of being located in Cape Breton are slowly diminishing as a result of increased freight rates, may I ask what proposals the hon. gentleman can offer this employer of close to 1,000 people to alleviate the situation so that this operation is not placed in jeopardy as stated by the same spokesman?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** I would have to know the details but if the hon. member would be good enough to let me see the item in question I would be glad to talk with the company concerned.

**Mr. Muir:** I thank the minister for his reply; I shall be glad to provide him with information. In view of the fact there have been 12 domestic freight rate increases since 1968 when the Sydney Steel Corporation came into being, and bearing in mind that this company employs close to 3,000 people, what relief can the minister offer this corporation so that it will not be forced out of business?

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**CONSUMER AFFAIRS****REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF HIGHER FOOD COSTS  
IN NORTHERN MANITOBA COMMUNITIES**

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs with reference to a recent survey of food costs carried out in 21 northern Manitoba communities under the authority of the medical services branch of the Department of National Health and Welfare. The report states that the average cost of food in these 21 communities is 73 per cent higher than the cost of comparable food in Winnipeg. I should like to ask the minister whether this report has been brought to his attention and whether he intends to look into this unacceptable situation.

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Frankly, the report has not been brought to my attention. I appreciate the hon. member raising the matter in the House, and I will look into it.