

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

House of Commons and visit the parliament buildings. I am sure any suggestions which might be made would take this into account, and that this matter would be discussed with the house.

[Translation]

**HOUSING****HULL, QUE.—REQUEST FOR RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the hon. Minister of Finance?

Further to letters I have received, and those the Minister of Finance has doubtless received, to the effect that the housing industry in the Hull area has been severely affected by the recent restrictions on credit imposed by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, does the minister intend to announce in the near future a change of policy with regard to C.M.H.C. loans or credit?

[English]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** The policy of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation was set forth fully by my colleague the Minister of Labour. I really have nothing to add to what he said.

[Translation]

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question?

Would it be possible for the Minister of Finance to meet the Minister of Labour (Mr. Nicholson) so they could agree to let the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation be a little more generous in its dealings with those who need credit?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is now putting forth an argument.

[English]

**LABOUR CONDITIONS****REFUSAL OF B.C. LONGSHOREMEN TO WORK ON VICTORIA DAY**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** I should like to address a question to the Minister of Labour. Yesterday was a holiday, Victoria day, and in the province of British Columbia at six major ports longshoremen did not work, regardless of a court injunction, because they maintained they were not required to work on that day under the labour standards legislation. May I ask

[Mr. Pearson.]

whether the minister is conducting an investigation to try to prevent the recurrence of such circumstances?

**Mr. Speaker:** I doubt whether this is extremely urgent. I suggest the question be placed upon the order paper.

[Later:]

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** On Thursday and Friday last I asked questions of the Minister of Labour but unfortunately he was unable to be present. Those questions had to do with the inability of the longshoremen's union at Vancouver to get full benefit from the Canada labour code. I wonder whether the minister is now in a position to answer the questions or make any report on the case I raised last Thursday and Friday.

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** I understood that an answer was given to the hon. gentleman by my office this morning. A telegram was received last week complaining against resort to the courts to compel people to work on Monday the 23rd which was a holiday. The answer to that telegram was that the Department of Labour does not intervene in disputes of that kind before the courts.

I may say that my department is giving consideration to the fact that such a circumstance has arisen and that a dispute of this nature has ended in the courts. I hope a solution will be found which will prevent a recurrence in the future.

**Mr. Douglas:** Can the minister assure the house that he will take the necessary steps to see that the employers in question live up to the terms of the Canada labour code?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. That question cannot be accepted.

**Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Labour with reference to his statement that consideration would be given to the taking of steps. I should like to ask the minister whether this consideration includes possible amendment to the present labour standards code which might make more easy a possible avoidance of this situation.

**Mr. Nicholson:** Mr. Speaker, I shall take that question as notice.

**Mr. Douglas:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I always try to abide by your ruling,