

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I shall have to inquire about this and, when the minister is in the house, I shall ask him to answer the question.

[English]

### CANADA DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

#### AVAILABILITY OF COMMONWEALTH TRUST CORRESPONDENCE

**Mr. Ray Perrault (Burnaby-Seymour):** This question is directed to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. In view of the great public concern with respect to Commonwealth Trust, is the minister willing to propose to the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation that correspondence with Commonwealth Trust be made available to any provincial commission of inquiry, judicial or legislative?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** I would have to take this matter under consideration and discuss it with the Superintendent of Insurance. However I should like to make it quite clear that the matter of Commonwealth Trust is being kept under constant review by the C.D.I.C. Moreover it was not the federal government which recommended that the government of British Columbia put money into the company.

### FISHERIES

#### SEALS—POSSIBILITY OF RE-OPENING HUNT

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Speaker, related to questions raised in the house in the last two or three days. Did the minister receive a communication this morning from representatives of those involved in the seal hunt to the effect that there is in fact a large resource of seals in the gulf north of Prince Edward Island? If so, is the minister taking steps to ascertain whether this information is correct, and possibly to reopen the hunt until the quota has been reached?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries):** We have rechecked the situation and found that the number of seals in the gulf is very small, roughly one quarter of what it has been in previous years.

#### SEALS—ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN SHIPS DURING CESSATION OF CANADIAN OPERATIONS

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the department taken any action as yet

[Mr. La Salle.]

against the five Norwegian vessels which were found in Canadian territorial waters as reported to the house yesterday?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries):** There are presently four vessels inside our territorial waters; they are stuck in the ice. They are not taking seals. Canadian vessels are taking seals in the same area.

### TRANSPORT

#### MEETING WITH HUDSON BAY ROUTE ASSOCIATION

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister. Has the right hon. gentleman received a request from the Hudson Bay Route Association to meet with him, and will he indicate the nature of his reply?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I did receive a request from the association, and because the subject matter concerned the Minister of Transport rather than myself I asked my colleague to meet with them. He intends to do so, soon. This does not preclude a meeting which I may have with them later; I hope to have one this summer, and I have begun to make plans to that effect. But the immediate problem is one which will be dealt with by the Minister of Transport.

**Mr. Korchinski:** Did the Prime Minister's decision hinge upon a report which was prepared last fall for the Department of Transport dealing with a possible extension of the season next year?

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, Mr. Speaker. My desire to see people does not hinge on such things as that.

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### ALTERNATIVE TO COMPENSATE FOR CANCELLED WINTER WORKS PROGRAM

**Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration may I direct my question to the Prime Minister. It has to do with the unemployment situation and with representations made by the Association of Canadian Reeves and Mayors. Has the government any alternative program to recommend in place of the winter works program, which was cancelled unilaterally, in order that municipalities may be assisted in various capital projects in the fields of housing and pollution control?