

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**FINANCE****REDUCTION OF MARGIN REQUIREMENT
IN PURCHASE OF SHARES**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wished to direct a question to the Minister of Finance or the Minister without Portfolio from Windsor but I am sure it is of sufficient importance that the Prime Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary to one of the other ministers will be able to answer it.

Was the decision to reduce the margin requirement in the purchase of shares on the stock market made after consultation with the government of Canada or the Bank of Canada?

Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will inquire of the minister, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Prime Minister, when he makes his inquiries, also re-examine the advisability of proceeding with the proposed government measures to regulate consumer credit, because it may be rather difficult to make a convincing case now for regulating consumer credit for the ordinary people when credit is being eased for the purchase of shares on the stock market?

LABOUR RELATIONS**WEST COAST TOWBOAT STRIKE—ALLEGED
STRIKEBREAKING ACTIVITIES—EFFECT
ON OTHER INDUSTRIES**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour regarding the towboat strike on the Pacific coast. Is he aware of the fact that the Canadian Merchant Service Guild is accusing the Department of Transport of assisting in strikebreaking by virtue of the fact that home trade or coastal trade papers have been granted to a mate and two engineers to enable the rail carrier *Haida Transporter* to engage in strikebreaking activities? Has the minister received any information or complaints from the workers regarding this matter, and has he made any representations to the Minister of Transport in this connection?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any such

allegations by the unions, nor am I aware of what one might call illegal strikebreaking activities, certainly none that the government are involved with. I can only discuss the matter with the Minister of Transport after the matter has been brought to my attention officially by the unions in question.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I ask the minister if his department has conciliation officers in the area, if discussions are going on between the Canadian Merchant Service Guild and the tubboat owners and whether there are immediate prospects of a settlement of this dispute which I understand is based mainly on the question of safety and undermanning of towboats?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the fact that a conciliation board report was tabled with my department. That report was a unanimous report. If the members of the union want to endorse the recommendations of their representatives, the strike could be over tomorrow morning.

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In conferring with the Minister of Transport on this matter which is very important to British Columbia, would the minister draw to his attention that other industries are being very adversely affected by this dispute? My information is that 2,000 workers have been laid off today by two mills in British Columbia.

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. member, a member of the NDP, is not suggesting that possibly, in view of the disastrous effects the strike is having on other workers in the province, that we introduce compulsory arbitration in the House and bring the matter to a settlement.

**WEST COAST TOWBOAT STRIKE—REQUEST
FOR REPORT ON MANNING AND SAFETY**

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I do not, for one, accept the implications of the remarks of the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has been given the floor for the purpose of asking a question.

Mr. Rose: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that at the root of part of the dispute is the Department of Labour report, known as the Elestrom report, on the very