

LABOUR RELATIONS

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE OF AUTONOMOUS STATUS OF CANADIAN UNION

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour in relation to a matter I directed to his attention a few days ago. In order to refresh his memory may I say that my question has to do with the takeover of the International Brotherhood of Railways and Steamship Clerks, or the merger of that union with the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Transport and General Workers. I have been looking forward to the minister's answer, particularly because of our concern for democracy and the maintenance of Canadian unions. Has the minister anything to say in respect of this situation?

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have received certain letters from members of the C.B. of R.T. complaining that they have had little or no opportunity to express an opinion on this matter at the local level, or no opportunity to instruct delegates to the convention. I can only suggest to the unions involved in respect of the position they take regarding the rights of their members, that they should look at page 151 of the Woods task force report, with reference to the recommendations that a Bill of Rights be established for the average union member, in order that he may participate fully in union affairs.

FISHERIES

SEALING—STEPS TO PREVENT DISSEMINATION OF FALSE ADVERTISING

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry whether he is aware that last Saturday night in Saint John, New Brunswick, a new organization was formed entitled "The International Organization for Animal Welfare", whose aims and objectives are the abolition of the sealing industry in Canada and which will be financed from abroad even though the organization will be based in Canada. If so, will the minister take steps to prevent the further propagation and dissemination of false and misleading advertising which will hurt further Canada's reputation abroad, and the sealing industry?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is not in order, in that it should not have been followed by a speech.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I prefer to take the question as notice and will answer later.

Inquiries of the Ministry

RESTRICTIONS IN SAINT JOHN HARBOUR AND BAY OF FUNDY

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Fisheries whether he received a report on the meeting held in Saint John between his officials and fishermen in respect of the severe salmon fishing restrictions in that harbour, and is the minister prepared now or will he undertake later to give an indication of some relief following this very helpful and optimistic meeting?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, there have been meetings, as the hon. member has mentioned. I have not been satisfied with the relations between some of our people and the fishermen. But the situation is serious and drastic action has been called for.

Mr. Bell: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister give an undertaking to make a report this week on the result of these meetings before the season reaches a stage where relief would not be possible even if it were desirable?

Mr. Davis: I would be glad to consider it, Mr. Speaker.

WATER RESOURCES

NEW GLASGOW, N.S.—POLLUTION OF FISHERY

Mr. Colin D. Gibson (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. Will he investigate the dangerous pollution crisis which is causing the death of fish and the destruction of beach lands as a result of the operations of the Scott Paper Company at New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, which ought to be inspected by the Nova Scotia government, which has failed to do so?

NEWFOUNDLAND—POLLUTION AT LONG HARBOUR—APPROVAL FOR ELECTRIC REDUCTION COMPANY PLANT

Mr. Walter C. Cartier (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry whether the Newfoundland government requested any approval from his department or the federal government in respect of the establishment of the Electric Reduction Company plant at Long Harbour?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): The correspondence to which the hon. member refers occurred about two years ago, Mr. Speaker.