

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I appreciate that the right hon. gentleman has a supplementary, and I observe that the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings also has a supplementary. However, I have to bring to the attention of hon. members that we will shortly be running out of time, and I count on their co-operation. The right hon. member for Prince Albert.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I now ask the minister whether, in order to assist in keeping up the morale of the airline employees, he himself will meet them? They do not want to meet with the officials of Air Canada because they get no consideration from them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister will not answer.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I think I got the gist of the question. I would be very pleased to meet with any group that—

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am asking the minister to meet with the union.

Mr. Jamieson: I wish the right hon. gentleman would let me answer his question because I would be glad to. I said I would be happy to meet with any group, but the question is whether it would be more appropriate, as I indicated earlier, for them to meet with the company first. To this moment, to my own personal knowledge I have not had a request for a meeting with the union. It may have reached my office but it has not reached me.

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[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS

MONTREAL—SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE BETWEEN LONGSHOREMEN AND EMPLOYER

Mr. Arthur Portelance (Gamelin): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the hon. Minister of Labour, but in his absence I should like to direct it to his parliamentary secretary.

Could he say whether the Department of Labour is now dealing with the problem created by the conflict between the longshoremen in Montreal harbour and their employer? If so, is he expecting an early agreement between the two parties?

Mr. Ray Perrault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the hon. member that our expert mediator, Mr. Charles Poirier, has sent me a communication to the effect that union and management representatives met this morning in the Department of Labour office and that as a result of Mr. Poirier's mediation, the employees are now going back to work.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary may I ask the Parliamentary Secretary how many notes he had to write in order to provide that answer?

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

SYDNEY, N.S.—PROVISION OF JOBS FOR UNEMPLOYED

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that there are at present 5,000 people drawing unemployment insurance benefits in Sydney compared with 1,500 a year ago, what steps are going to be taken to provide employment for these workers?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the manpower office in Sydney is making its services available in the most effective way possible to those people who seek them.

Mr. Muir: Is the minister suggesting that these 5,000 people are not seeking employment?

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

KING CHRISTIAN ISLAND—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON GAS WELL BLOWOUT

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development but in his absence I direct it to his Parliamentary Secretary. Would the minister make a statement on motions on the natural gas blowout on King Christian Island which has now meant a loss of over four billion cubic feet of natural gas and is having a serious ecological effect in Canada's northland?

Mr. Judd Buchanan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I believe the minister has already dealt with this question but I would be happy to bring it to his attention again.

Mr. Harding: Would the minister consider a moratorium on natural gas and oil exploration in Canada's north until the results of the present investigation have been evaluated and presented to the House?

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MANPOWER

NUMBER OF PERSONS UNDER 30 RECEIVING TRAINING— APPLICATIONS AND REJECTIONS

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the unprecedented numbers of