

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member has pointed out, the strike in Flin Flon has already lasted three months. At the request of both parties, we sent a mediator. Unless the attitude of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company and the several craft unions involved reflects their responsibility to the community, a reflection that was noticeably absent in the presence of the mediator, that strike could very well last another three months.

Mr. Simpson: I take it the minister is suggesting that no further efforts will be made at the present time, or at least until there is a further cooling-off period?

Mr. Mackasey: I am suggesting that both parties at the present moment could very well bring the strike to an end if they would both assume their moral and legal obligations to the community instead of asking the Department of Labour to do the impossible. Until their attitudes change, there is little point in assigning a mediator to the dispute.

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PUBLIC SERVICE**FURTHER REPORT BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL EXCLUDED FROM COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board concerning the advisory committee on pay and compensation of excluded personnel in the Public Service, sometimes known as the Clyne committee. In view of the fact that the only report made by this committee was in December, 1968, and in view of the fact that many of the public servants who are excluded from collective bargaining are concerned about the situation, is it the intention of the government to ask the committee for another report soon?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): As the hon. member is aware, I believe, the committee has been in fairly frequent session. I hesitate to describe it as continuous, but it has been in fairly frequent session over the years. Periodically they forward advice, not in the nature of a report but merely advice. I expect there will be a rather more formal report, approaching the first one, in the relatively near future.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the report in December, 1968, was tabled, can the minister assure the House that the second report will also be tabled?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I think that a second formal type of report would be tabled.

[Mr. Simpson.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CANADIAN ASSISTANCE IN AIRLIFTING MAIZE TO ZAMBIA**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is this country now assisting in the airlift of Maize to Zambia or is it using its good offices to ask Zambia's neighbours to facilitate the ground transport of this important food?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): When I was in Zambia, Mr. Speaker, I had a full report from the Zambian government on the situation that is being faced as a result of the clampdown on shipments through Portuguese ports. At that time the Zambian government did not ask us to take specific action. I believe they were merely informing us of a developing situation in which we might be asked to help.

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HEALTH**CONSULTATIONS ON COMPATIBILITY OF PROPOSED BRITISH COLUMBIA AND FEDERAL CIGARETTE LEGISLATION**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): My question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the government had consultations with the government of British Columbia regarding the compatibility of the British Columbia cigarette legislation with the expected legislation of the federal government in this area?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Rynard: When will the federal legislation be introduced?

Mr. Munro: The matter is now under active consideration, Mr. Speaker. When there is a decision on the matter of policy on this question, I will advise the House.

CONSULTATIONS WITH CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS ON ABANDONING OF ADVERTISING

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Has the minister had any consultations with the cigarette manufacturers with regard to their willingness to withdraw television and other forms of advertising?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I and officials of my department have been having discussions with the tobacco manufacturers on a more or less continuous basis covering a lot of fronts, including this one, over the past three or four years.