

Inquiries of the Ministry

the said Canadian Marconi Company and any of its employees: "Native and Eskimo villages are considered out of bounds and personnel are prohibited from fraternization or association with the native population except in special circumstances. Infringement of these orders is cause for discharge."

Motion agreed to.

CANADIAN MARCONI CONTRACTS WITH NORTHERN AFFAIRS

Motion No. 127—Mr. Howard:

For a copy of all current contracts between the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and the Canadian Marconi Company.

Motion agreed to.

DISCONTINUED RAILWAY SERVICES

Motion No. 128—Mr. Deschatelets:

For a copy of the complete list of all railway services, discontinued in Canada by the Canadian National Railways Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, since July 1, 1957.

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the hon. member would allow this motion to stand.

Mr. Deschatelets: Agreed.

Motion stands.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RED CHINA—REPORTED STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE RESPECTING RECOGNITION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether he has any comment to make upon a statement reported to have been made by the Minister of Agriculture in Vancouver yesterday to the effect that perhaps Canada should have recognized the de facto government of red China right from the start; that the Chinese are dedicated people, and that in his grain trade dealing with them recently he had found them most anxious to increase their trade with Canada but would do nothing that would hurt Canadian producers.

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): I have not seen the news report in question. Perhaps comment might wait until the return to the house of the Minister of Agriculture.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

MARITIME PROVINCES—REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION BY MINISTER IN SHIPYARD STRIKES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that workers employed at shipyards at Halifax and Dartmouth, Nova

Scotia, and at Saint John, New Brunswick have taken strike action to support their demands for a decent wage, and since the \$35 million in federal contracts held by these yards contain a clause guaranteeing the recovery to the employer of the cost of any wage increase, will the minister use his good offices to see that wages in these shipyards, now 30 per cent below those paid on the west coast, are increased and a settlement of the strike secured?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): I received notice of this question on my way into the house. First of all I would point out that each of the disputes mentioned comes under provincial jurisdiction. As to the details of the contracts which these shipyards may have, I must inform the hon. member that I have no knowledge on that score, since this is a matter completely outside my jurisdiction.

Mr. Argue: Perhaps I may put a companion question to the Minister of Defence Production, to whom I sent a copy of my question. Since the government is involved with these contracts, and since the Minister of Labour says this is a matter which comes under provincial jurisdiction, I wonder whether the hon. gentleman will use his good offices to help bring about a settlement.

Hon. Raymond O'Hurley (Minister of Defence Production): We have a clause in our contracts under which we pay any increase in wages, and we shall certainly respect our contracts, but this is a question of collective bargaining. After the collective bargaining is finished we shall respect our contracts.

Mr. Argue: Is the Minister of Labour not prepared to take any part in these discussions whatsoever?

Mr. Starr: It has always been the policy of the Department of Labour not to interfere with provincial jurisdiction.

TRADE

GRAIN—RATE OF INTEREST ON CHINESE BALANCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Ottawa West): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, and ask him if he is able to advise the house as to the rate of interest being charged on credit balances in connection with the wheat trade agreement with communist China.

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): When that situation arises the rate will be established, but I think further comment might await the return of the Minister of Agriculture.