

*Inquiries of the Ministry**(Translation):*

Hon. Paul Comtois (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, like the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier) I too shall speak in my mother tongue. I am sure the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Robichaud) will not have to use his earphone for I know he speaks French very well. I did not receive any notice from the Dosco company with regard to a cut down in production or a staff reduction. I saw this article in a paper—the *Gazette*—this morning, and this was the first news I had of it, through the press. However, we shall look into the matter and as soon as I have been officially informed by the company that there has been a reduction of staff and production, or of its plans in the matter, I shall notify my colleagues and we shall make a decision about it.

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Speaker, were representations made to the minister, either directly or through the officials of the local union of the United Mine Workers of America, in protest against this decreased production?

Mr. Comtois: Mr. Speaker, certain representations along that line, and on other matters, were indeed made to us by the Dosco company. Their representatives came and met with us some time ago. They did make representations, and I must add that the matter is now under consideration and that we propose to come to a decision with regard to this in the near future.

*(Text):***NATIONAL CAPITAL PLAN****INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. O. Gour (Russell): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the action taken at the last session of parliament setting up a national capital commission, is it the intention of the government to act soon in the matter of appointing the members of the new capital commission?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can assure my hon. friend that it is, and that within two or three days events may take place which will give some explanation as to why the appointments have not been made. The appointments will be made within the next week.

[Mr. Robichaud.]

CANADIAN PACIFIC STEAMSHIPS**BRITISH COLUMBIA—INQUIRY AS TO PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I have a question I should like to pose to the Minister of Labour. I sent him notice of it, and I hope the notification reached him in sufficient time. Can the minister indicate to the house what have been the results of the negotiations between Canadian Pacific Steamships, British Columbia coast service, and the unions affected by the British Columbia Coast Steamship Service Act of 1958? If no agreement has been reached between the parties, what action is contemplated by the government?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): I wish to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his intention to ask this question. As most hon. members are aware, legislation was passed by parliament during the last session which provided for resumption of the services of the British Columbia coastal steamship lines.

An administrator was appointed under the act to administer the operation of this line. Following that a commission of inquiry was appointed which brought the parties together in a number of meetings. The result was that the items of disagreement were narrowed down considerably. The points remaining at issue involve rates of pay including overtime, the term of the new agreement and the employees' welfare plan.

In the interim period we have endeavoured to bring both parties together by conferring with the seafarers international union and the Canadian Pacific Railway individually. As a result of this the parties met as recently as last Friday in Montreal, and the result of this meeting is now being studied to ascertain what further steps can be taken to bring the parties together and effect a satisfactory solution to the problem.

Mr. Howard: Is Mr. Taylor of Toronto still the industrial inquiry commissioner, and will he be acting in that capacity until negotiations are completed?

Mr. Starr: His services may be requisitioned again.

*(Translation):***BRIDGES****MONTREAL—INQUIRY AS TO THE CLOSING OF TRAFFIC LANES DURING ALTERATIONS**

Mr. Gerard Loiselle (St. Ann): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Hees) a question about Victoria bridge, which is partly in my constituency.