

Inquiries of the Ministry

Can the minister tell the house whether he has received any communications or telegrams from various municipalities asking for the extension of the winter works period in view of the temperature and the severe weather conditions experienced this winter, which delayed the carrying-out of those works?

[English]

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, with all respect I think the question should have been addressed to my colleague the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

[Translation]

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): Mr. Speaker, I put my question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Would the hon. member be so kind as to repeat his question?

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): Has the minister received, from different municipalities, communications asking for the extension of the winter works period in view of the delays brought about by severe weather conditions and inclement temperature which prevailed recently?

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, I have no information at this time, but I shall inquire of the department and give an answer a little later.

[English]

PENITENTIARIES**WARKWORTH—REPORTED EXPLOSION
AND LOSS OF LIFE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lee Grills (Hastings South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. Has the minister received any information regarding a reported accident and serious explosion at the construction site of the Warkworth penitentiary this morning, which took the life of one man and injured several others?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This may be an important matter, but I suggest it is not the type of question that should be submitted at this time.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, with deference, I wonder whether Your Honour might allow the question asked by the hon. member for Hastings South, since there has been loss of life and since it is the

[Mr. Langlois (Mégantic).]

responsibility of the Solicitor General to answer questions of this nature.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair must reach a decision each time a question is asked as to whether the question should be allowed and an answer given during the question period. Even though there may have been a loss of life my decision was based on the general principle that this was not a matter of national urgency. However, if it is the general feeling of the house that the matter should be considered at this time and the Solicitor General wants to reply to the question, I will allow him to do so.

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the question was not addressed to me originally. I regret, however, that I am unable to help the house in this regard. I will make inquiries immediately and communicate with the hon. member.

[Later:]

Mr. Pennell: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may expand on the reply I gave to the question asked by the hon. member for Hastings South. I have just been advised that a propane gas tank exploded at Warkworth, injuring one man and killing another. I have no more details, except to say that the control of this institution has not yet been turned over to the penitentiaries service.

HOUSE OF COMMONS**INQUIRY AS TO SETTING UP OF JOINT
RESTAURANT COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the house leader because of certain discontent in relation to the operation of the restaurant and other facilities of that type. Can the house leader inform the house when the restaurant committee is to be established?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell when that committee will be established, but a notice has been prepared and has gone forward today to be placed on the order paper.

EXPO '67**REPORTED WITHDRAWAL OF PARTICIPATION
BY IRELAND**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. E. Régimbal (Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. There were several radio