

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister of Transport. Whereas Mr. Charles H. Millard, of the board of trustees of the Maritime Transportation Union, has deplored the cynical and irresponsible actions of men like Paul Hall and Hal C. Banks, would the minister inform the house if in view of the recent statements by Paul Hall, this man is in a position to interfere with the operation of Canadian ships.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

RETENTION IN CUSTODY OF COMPANY FILES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice and it becomes urgent in view of the fact that his estimates have been held up. Will the minister assure us that the files of the five companies, the names of which I placed on *Hansard* yesterday and the day before, have not been and will not be removed from official custody, and that proper measures are being taken to safeguard their continued existence intact?

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member has charges to make against that company or any company, against me, or against the government let him do so immediately and stop fooling around.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: We heard that last year.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, the minister is a little sensitive. He obviously did not hear my question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nielsen: My question was, will the minister assure us that the files of the five companies, the names of which I placed on record yesterday and the day before have not been and will not be removed—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister, as I gather, has replied. Order, please.

Mr. Starr: It was a stupid answer.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member who asked the question may not be satisfied with the reply, but he knows that according to the rules he cannot insist on a reply at all, and when he does get a reply, even if he does not think it is adequate he has to accept it.

Mr. Nielsen: May I sir, ask the minister another question. Will the minister assure us

[Mr. Herridge.]

that the files respecting the five companies that I have already mentioned have not been removed from official records, and that they will not be removed but will be maintained intact?

Mr. Cardin: Mr. Speaker, it does not seem to me that I have to give the hon. member assurance for something that is normally done in the Department of Justice.

Mr. Nielsen: Whose responsibility is it, then?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GHANA—INQUIRY AS TO REQUEST FOR AID

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the financial crisis that faces the country of Ghana and the threat of famine which has been announced by the new head of state in that country, can the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell us whether he has responded to the request for food aid which has been publicized today.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there has been no formal request to Canada for such aid.

ZAMBIA—SUGGESTED CANADIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM OIL AIRLIFT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. May I ask him, in view of the cost to Canada of approximately \$50,000 a day for the oil lift into Zambia, and reports coming in again today that Rhodesia is getting rather large quantities of oil, whether the government is looking into these reports to find out whether these expenditures on behalf of the Canadian government are ineffective and useless.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have looked into this matter again since my hon. friend asked a question somewhat along these lines the other day. The government is of the opinion, as are other participating governments, that this is a desirable and necessary form of assistance at this time to bring about a realization of the objectives of sanctions.

[Later]

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, I should like the Secretary of State for External Affairs to inform the house whether or not the government is attempting to ascertain if Rhodesia is