

Inquiries of the Ministry

That is the report I have had from the chairman, Mr. Speaker, and from that report it will be clear that we cannot expect the important volume I before September.

THE MINISTRY**ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF DEFENCE—ABOLITION OF POST**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): In the spirit of co-operation that is so apparent today from the answer the Prime Minister gave to the first question I asked, may I ask if he can tell us whether, in addition to the legislation providing for the establishment of a department of industry and the bifurcation of the Department of Agriculture, it is the intention of the government to abolish the position of Associate Minister of National Defence?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, it is not our intention to abolish that position.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question regarding a statement he made in that connection on March 5, 1963.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: At that time he stated he would abolish the position of associate defence minister, so there would be a net gain of only one cabinet portfolio as a result of the action taken to which I referred earlier.

Mr. Pearson: We found when we took office that defence policies were in such a confused condition it was desirable to keep the two ministers.

Mr. Diefenbaker: In these 60 days of shift, did the Prime Minister not say that with two ministers of defence it would be impossible to secure efficiency?

Mr. Pearson: That may have been an accurate statement in respect of the previous administration.

Mr. Diefenbaker: So we are going to have a larger cabinet to do the same amount of work.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**GREAT LAKES—DELAY IN LOADING CANADIAN SHIP AT CHICAGO**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether the United States department of justice has been successful in its efforts to have a federal court [Mr. Pearson.]

grant an injunction against the picketing and boycotting of the Canadian ship *Howard Shaw*, which is tied up at Chicago.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): I understand that a decision in this case will likely be made this afternoon by the federal court in Chicago.

PARLIAMENT HILL—MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT CROSSING PICKET LINES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. Horner (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Labour. Can he assure the house that members of parliament carrying union cards are not violating union principles in coming up to the parliament buildings and crossing the picket line?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I think this is a problem for each individual member to decide for himself.

PARLIAMENT HILL—REPORTED OVERTIME WORK WITHOUT OVERTIME PAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Labour. Would the minister inform the house whether the adjustment amounting to over \$6,000 in wages mentioned in his statement yesterday was in relation to work done on the west block in 1962 or 1963 in preparation for the NATO conference? Can the minister assure the house that the regulations governing labour conditions are being fully observed by all contractors engaged on government contracts in the Ottawa area?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): The answer given yesterday applied generally to the contract in connection with the work on the west block. The recovery now being undertaken by the Department of Labour is in connection with work done, I think, in 1962.

The matter which was raised two days ago by the hon. member is currently being investigated to see whether labour conditions are fully complied with. If not, appropriate action will be taken.

BRITISH COLUMBIA—REPORTED SHORTAGE OF STRAWBERRY PICKERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Is the minister aware of the critical labour situation in the Saanich peninsula on Vancouver island, where 300 strawberry pickers are immediately required to harvest the crop which, in any event, cannot fill the demand