

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker, publications which give a simplified version of the new act are available in all unemployment insurance offices. In addition, there have been weekly advertisements, as has already been mentioned in the House, and more are contemplated between now and the beginning

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INDIAN AFFAIRS**WITHDRAWAL OF CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL BY PARENTS
BECAUSE OF ALLEGED LACK OF FACILITIES**

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In light of actions taken by many Indian parents in northeastern Alberta to withhold their children from attending school and the prospect that by the end of this week the number being withheld will reach approximately 2,000, the reason for this action being to back up demands for better classroom facilities and other necessities, can the minister indicate to the House what steps are being taken to give adequate assurances that meaningful action will be taken to fulfil their requests?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I received a report on this matter, just a few minutes ago, and I am informed that the Regional Director, Mr. Greyeyes, is in contact with parents about this problem. We are trying to make parents realize that it is impossible to provide all the facilities which they would like to have immediately. However, we have assured them that we shall do all in our power to clarify this situation as soon as possible, and it is hoped that students will immediately resume their studies.

[English]

Mr. Mazankowski: In view of the fact that Indian officials have indicated that only a personal commitment from the minister will stop the tide of this development, is the minister prepared to make that commitment and in effect grant the requests that are being made?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: I can hardly make a specific commitment, because the matter is too comprehensive. It concerns not only the facilities but also the type of education those pupils must get, and since they attend a provincial school, the provincial government must also be involved. Therefore I cannot give a final answer today.

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[English]

SHIPPING**VANCOUVER HARBOUR—ALLEGED PRIORITY TO
MOVEMENT OF GOODS DESTINED TO OR EMANATING
FROM UNITED STATES**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): My question is for the Minister of Transport. Last week I asked the

minister whether he would investigate the congestion in Vancouver harbour and the alleged low priority given to Canadian shipments. He told us at that time that he would report within a few days. Is he in a position to say anything more today?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have a written report which I will be glad to make available to the hon. member. The gist of it is that in so far as is humanly possible preference is being given to Canadian cargoes. That is not always possible because of the mixed nature of some cargoes. The decisions with regard to the sequence in which ships are unloaded are being made largely by what I believe is known as a wharf committee, or a committee of the most concerned people. As for the question of a possible embargo, this is generally regarded as being an unwise step even if it were possible for us to introduce it, and there are some very big reservations about that. I believe that is the basis of the report. I will send it to the hon. member.

• (2:50 p.m.)

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Thank you.

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DRUGS**INQUIRY AS TO FINAL REPORT OF LE DAIN COMMISSION**

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the minister received the final report of the Le Dain Commission? If so, when does he expect to table it? If not, when does he expect to receive it?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker. I can advise the hon. member that I have not received it. In the latest conversation I had with the chairman of the Le Dain Commission he indicated that possibly it will be ready by the end of the year.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**CLOSING OF ACADIA FISHERIES PLANTS AT CANSO AND
MULGRAVE, N.S.—MEASURES TO ASSIST UNEMPLOYED**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Knowing of his great interest in creating jobs throughout the country, I am sure that he must be aware of the problem I am about to raise. In light of the fact that Acadia Fisheries closed their processing plant at Canso two months ago, resulting in the unemployment of 500 people, and since some months prior to that their Mulgrave plant was also closed, thereby putting another 300 workers on the unemployment rolls, may I ask the hon. gentleman what steps have been taken by his department to alleviate this serious problem?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I regret that the hon. member did not give me notice of his question one hour before the