

Inquiries of the Ministry

to the announcement earlier today made by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. McCleave), the chairman of the miscellaneous private bills committee, to the effect that divorce bills will be placed on the order paper as of tomorrow for proceeding thereon, does this indicate that the government has no intention of meeting its commitment made to the house last session about parliamentary procedure on this matter?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I will examine in *Hansard* the hon. member's lengthy question and ascertain whether it requires an answer tomorrow.

SHIPPING**ST. LAWRENCE RIVER—GOVERNMENT ACTION IN DISPUTE RESPECTING PILOTS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, I see the Minister of Labour is in his seat. I wonder whether, in the time that has expired since this afternoon, the minister has had an opportunity of looking at the questions that were put to him as to whether or not the strike between the pilots and the shipping federation of Canada was a legal one?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have not had the opportunity of having *Hansard*, or whatever you call it, at my disposal with respect to these questions.

Mr. Chevrier: Then may I ask a supplementary question arising out of this same matter. Does the minister think that an appropriate thing to do in connection with a dispute of this nature, to tell the pilots that before their grievances can be considered they must go back to work? Is that the policy which the Minister of Labour follows in other disputes such as for instance—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member's comment is not in order.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Public Works said, "Don't answer that; to hell with him". That is a very nice method and manner of interrupting a question and passing remarks when those of us who sit on this side of the house ask questions and have a perfect right to do so.

Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Laurier, for whose opinion I have no regard in any event, has no business putting words into my mouth.

Mr. Chevrier: That is what you said.

Mr. Walker: You are wrong.

Mr. Chevrier: I rise on a question of privilege.

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Laurier has taken exception to a remark which he alleges was made and which I did not personally hear. Is his question of privilege relating to that matter?

Mr. Chevrier: Yes, Mr. Speaker. My question of privilege is this. While I was putting the question to the Minister of Labour I heard the Minister of Public Works make the following remark and I make this statement on my responsibility as a member of parliament. The statement was, "Don't answer that question; let him go to hell".

Mr. Walker: That is completely wrong.

Mr. Pearson: What did you say?

Mr. Walker: It is none of your business what I said.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Laurier has made an assertion which has been denied by the minister.

Mr. Chevrier: The minister did not deny it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is obliged to accept the statement of the minister involved whose knowledge would encompass what he had said.

Mr. Starr: In reply, may I say that this question asked just now is no different from the other one. I shall be obliged to look at the notes.

Mr. Pickersgill: May I ask the Minister of Labour whether he saw in the report that his colleague the Minister of Transport had informed the pilots that this was an illegal strike? Does the minister not know what his colleague knows?

Mr. Starr: That was a really smart question.

Mr. Pickersgill: It is a very smart government.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**CAPE BRETON, N.S.—REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF BENEFITS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Labour. Has the Minister of Labour received a letter dated April 5 from Mr. Malcolm MacInnis, secretary of the industrial Cape Breton committee on unemployment, pointing out all the efforts being made on the local level to solve this problem or at least ameliorate the conditions and asking that unemployment insurance benefits be extended and, if so, could the minister inform the house of the nature of his reply?