

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

recently with the harbour board commissioners, with the delegation from the international woodworkers of America and representatives of industries which will be displaced by the plan to build a grain elevator on the north shore of Vancouver harbour. We are all grateful that there has been a two month extension of the time available to these industries.

Is the minister now able to say what consideration is being given to making available a financial subsidy or loan so as to enable the four industries concerned to relocate on sites where they may continue to operate and maintain their employment capacity?

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** Since the hon. member's question was somewhat lengthy, perhaps I might be permitted to say that I appreciate immensely the co-operation of the president of the Saskatchewan wheat pool who at some considerable inconvenience to the organization, which is anxious to get on with the building of its elevator, consented to make certain arrangements which give us two more months in which to consider the future of these industries. I should like to express my appreciation publicly.

I should also like to say that the delegation which I received was most understanding. I think I grasped pretty well what their problems are. The harbour board is giving them careful consideration. If the bell had not rung at 2.30 I would have had a report from the chairman of the harbour board who was trying to reach me by telephone. Not having received that report I am afraid I cannot yet give even a tentative answer to the question put to me by the hon. member. But the matter is under active consideration.

**Mr. Winch:** A supplementary question in order that the situation should be clear. Am I to understand that what is under consideration now is the making of a subsidy or a loan in connection with readjustment? Is that it?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** It was suggested to me that if certain financial help could be given to these industries they might be relocated without any undue displacement of employment. I, of course, could give no undertaking that such assistance could be given but I did say I would examine the proposition very carefully and if I felt something could be suggested to my colleagues I would propose it to them.

**TRADE****AUTOMOBILES AND PARTS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON DUTY FREE PROVISIONS**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth):** I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has he anything to report as to whether or not Canada and the United States are nearing agreement to establish duty free trade in automobiles and parts?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, this very important matter is under active consideration and there is nothing I can announce yet.

**WORLD FAIR****TRANSFER OF ADVERTISING ACCOUNTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister a question. In view of the letter on ethics and the abolition of patronage thereby, would the Prime Minister explain the reason why the Montreal world fair account has been transferred from six agencies, two of them French Canadian, to Cockfield, Brown & Co. Ltd., the chief advertising agency of the national Liberal federation?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, without accepting in any way the implications of the question, I would point out to the right hon. gentleman that the world fair corporation is not under the control of the government. However, I would be glad to look into the point he has raised. I would also remind the right hon. gentleman that the word "patronage" did not appear in the letter to which he referred.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Does the Prime Minister say that it was not to be interpreted, as the press interpreted it, as the abolition of patronage?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****ALLEGED INTIMIDATION OF CANADIAN CITIZENS BY LEBANESE AMBASSADOR**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and ask whether his attention has been drawn to the article which appeared in the *Ottawa Citizen* of December 5, in which two Ottawa citizens, James Beauchamp and Fred L.