

Inquiries of the Ministry

question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the widespread concern over the trucking strike in Ontario, and in view of the fact that a clarification with respect to part I of the Canada Labour (Standards) Code having to do with hours of work in the trucking industry might result in a settlement, I should like to ask the minister whether he would be prepared as soon as possible to make a statement about his decision regarding the application for a deferment under part I by the automotive transport association.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to give the suggestion consideration.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that one of the major points of dispute relates to the increasing numbers of owner-operators in the trucking industry, I should like to ask the minister whether he will consider an early amendment to the Canada Labour (Standards) Code to include owner-operators under the provisions of that act.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that the hon. member is now asking a question of a very general nature which should not be asked at this time.

CANADIAN CENTENNIAL**INQUIRY AS TO CO-ORDINATION OF EXHIBITIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Will the minister inform us as to whether any plans are being made to co-ordinate such Canadian exhibitions as the Calgary stampede, the Pacific National Exhibition and the Canadian National exhibition with Expo '67 programs as they relate to the over-all picture of the country in the centennial year?

Mr. Speaker: That is a very interesting and important question which the hon. member may wish to place on the order paper.

COMBINES**EXTENSION OF LEGISLATION TO COVER PROFESSIONAL SPORTS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, in light of the reply given by the President of the Privy Council to starred question 705 to the effect that the government considers the

operations of the National Hockey League to be outside the purview of the Combines Investigation Act, and in light of the size and scope of the operations of this organization and the interest of the people of Canada in it; and having in mind the obvious restrictive effects of present arrangements as to the extension of franchises and other related matters, will the government give immediate consideration to amending the act so as to bring such operations within its scope in the interests of the people of Canada?

Hon. Guy Favreau (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman will remember the remarks he made before a parliamentary committee in relation to the fact that services are not presently covered by the Combines Investigation Act. However, I am pleased to advise him—and I do not want to refer to the National Hockey League or any other specific organization—that in relation to any service, the question as to whether and to what extent services may be included within the ambit of the act is presently under consideration.

Mr. Fulton: I have a supplementary question. Whatever may have been said in the past does not seem to me to apply now; but in respect of the question as to whether services were exempted—and I am not entering into an argument on that situation—surely the minister does not feel we have to go into the whole matter of whether a sport in this sense is a service. Does the minister not rather feel—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that the hon. member now is submitting an argument rather than asking a question. I would suggest that he ask his question at this stage.

Mr. Fulton: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I admit I was establishing a precedent on which I shall not elaborate. Will the minister consider the question as to whether sports and operations of this size and nature do fall within the descriptive word "services"?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now asking for a legal opinion or interpretation of a statute and I suggest this cannot be done at this time.

Mr. Ron Basford (Vancouver-Burrard): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that I have filed a bill to amend the Combines Investigation Act to bring professional sports within the ambit of