

*Inquiries of the Ministry***INDUSTRY****COPPER—MEETING OF CANADIAN REQUIREMENTS**

with the answer to the question posed by the hon. member for Brandon-Souris and perhaps I might be allowed to give that answer now. In trying to provide extra service to the dependants of our servicemen we undertook, on a three-month trial basis, to provide limited medical care to dependants. This trial was conducted at Shilo, Manitoba, and ended yesterday. We found the costs too high to make any firm undertaking to provide this service at other than isolated bases. This trial was in no way connected with medicare or the entry of Manitoba into the medicare plan.

TRANSPORT**FREEZE ON MARITIME FREIGHT RATES**

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Following the minister's assurance to the house on Monday that the freight rate freeze in Atlantic Canada will remain in effect pending consideration of Bill C-182, would the minister assure the house at this time that the bill which freezes the rates on maritime transportation will be brought before the house immediately upon the resumption of parliament after the Easter recess?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): It is the government's policy to proceed with the bill soon following our return from the Easter recess.

LABOUR RELATIONS**STRIKE OF SHEET METAL WORKERS—EFFECT ON GRAIN DRYING**

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. In light of reports from the Lakehead that a strike of sheet metal workers at that point has created an emergency in respect of the installation of new grain drying equipment and as a consequence has seriously aggravated the problem of drying wet and damp grain, can the minister indicate when this strike may be settled and whether he is taking action to expedite the settlement?

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): I may be wrong, Mr. Speaker, but I think the dispute in question is one that comes under the jurisdiction of the provincial minister of labour.

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In respect of the statement the minister made today concerning copper, may I ask him whether he has received assurances from the copper producers in this country that Canadian requirements will be met?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): The purpose of the announcement I made was to make sure of that. There is still a discrepancy between what is offered by the producers and what is needed by the Canadian users. The present situation is very complicated: a number of producers who were shipping to Noranda for refining and were selling at the North America price also would like to benefit from the L.M.E. price. We are trying to get the industry, in its best interests, to make the adjustment itself. I hope we will manage.

Mr. Saltsman: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister say whether he has received any representations from American users of copper in regard to this question?

Mr. Pepin: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question on the same subject for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I agree with him that it is a rather complicated matter, but is the minister's statement a threat to the producers that if they do not play ball and go along with the system of controls they will not be allowed to sell outside Canada?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the exercise is to make sure that manufacturers in Canada will get their copper in quantities and at a price that is reasonable, so that they will remain competitive among themselves and also competitive in foreign markets.

Mr. Saltsman: A further supplementary question. Has the minister made any representations to scrap dealers in copper with a view to granting export licences?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, they are covered in part by the statement that I have made today.