

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, there has already been wide distribution of this report and we expect to have a great deal of comment. We have no plan for any formal hearings at the present time. As a matter of fact, I believe the commission itself saw and spoke to almost 4,000 people in its visits through the territories, which I would think is between 25 per cent and 30 per cent of all the adult citizens there.

[Translation]

SHIPPING

MONTREAL—INQUIRY AS TO WINTER NAVIGATION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

Can the minister tell the house if his department, with the help of its ice-breakers, will encourage winter navigation to the Montreal harbour this year?

[English]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): That is a very big question, sir. I do not think I can answer it properly at this time.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest to the hon. member that the question is not very urgent at this time.

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

CABINET CONSIDERATION OF TAB PAYMENTS TO AUTOMOBILE WORKERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour but in his absence I direct it to his parliamentary secretary. Does the parliamentary secretary know whether the revised formula for the payment of transitional assistance benefits to the laid-off automobile workers has been submitted to cabinet and whether a decision has been arrived at yet?

Mr. B. S. Mackasey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I can only bring that question to the attention of the minister on his return tomorrow.

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Inquiries of the Ministry COAL

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Some months ago he informed the house that he would make a formal statement on what he intended doing with the Donald report when it came down. The other day the minister suggested that he is continuing to study it. May I ask him now when the house may expect a statement of government policy with respect to the Donald report on the Cape Breton mines?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, when we got the Donald report we said that we would expect representations to be made by the concerned parties. To answer a previous question, I hope to go to Cape Breton as soon as I can to receive these representations personally. After receiving these representations the government, which is studying the report, will make its policy known.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the minister has informed the communities, the company and the miners' union of the specific dates that he is going to be there and has invited their representations. When is this to take place?

Mr. Pepin: When I came back from Calgary just a few hours ago I received a telegram from one of these groups. I mentioned in my answer that I will make myself available in about ten days time.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, since I might be pardoned for confusing initials, I wonder if the Prime Minister would take it upon himself to do a bit of research and inform the house what the initials O.H.M.S. mean?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

PARTICIPATION BY FINANCE MINISTER IN MEDICARE DEBATE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of