

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I regret that I have to interrupt the right hon. member but I believe the hon. member for Saint-Denis has a question of privilege.

[*Translation*]

The hon. member for Saint-Denis on a question of privilege.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that the Minister of Justice was preparing to answer the question when the Minister of National Health and Welfare did answer it.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: In the circumstances, it might be in order to allow the Minister of Justice to reply to the question.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa Carleton): The answer to the question is, Mr. Speaker, that we are not in any way prejudging the issue and as the law is the law the Department of Justice will attempt to give the appropriate advice to the courts on the basis of existing law.

Mr. Woolliams: I wonder if I might follow that up, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Minister of Justice whether he intends to amend the law to fit the Prime Minister's philosophy or the Minister of National Health and Welfare's philosophy?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, my question arises out of a statement made at a press conference. Would the Minister of National Health and Welfare be able to inform the House whether, when the Prime Minister at a press conference made the announcement that marijuana was going to be legalized, he was speaking for the government or just speaking *ex cathedra*?

LABOUR RELATIONS

VANCOUVER WATERFRONT—STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker. In view of the imperative necessity that there should not be a lock-out or strike on the waterfront in Vancouver and the three-month peace arrangement made with the Minister of Labour, which is rapidly nearing an end, could he inform the House now as to the status of negotiations?

21611—4

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Briefly, Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that the negotiators representing the workers on the various waterfronts in Vancouver have submitted new or revised demands to management and a meeting is going ahead as scheduled.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Winch: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, regarding the Harbours Board in Vancouver. Could I ask the Minister of Labour if he understands that both the employer and the union will conclude their new negotiations and report prior to the deadline of three months which he was able to arrange, after which there is the right to strike?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, theoretically the right to strike exists at this moment. It was the unions themselves who volunteered not to strike before February 5 in an effort to arrive at a satisfactory settlement with management. I am hoping that such a satisfactory settlement will be arrived at, and I am rather encouraged by the fact that both parties are now meeting for that very purpose.

MONTREAL WATERFRONT—PUBLICATION OF REPORT

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister going to make public the report dealing with conditions in the port of Montreal?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that no senior official of any department, no member of the House of Commons on either side nor anybody in private industry has suggested that the report be suppressed or not made public. What I said stands. As I said on December 17, I received the report in October, sent it out for translation and printing and it was then put before a departmental committee of the Department of Labour for analysis and study. That work was completed during the holidays and it has now been referred to the Department of Transport and the National Harbours Board for their observations. When and if the report is to be tabled will be announced in due course.

CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask