

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

been provided by the Department of Transport, and despite the minister's good intentions it is unlikely that the Department of Transport will be able to gear up to adequate inspection services in the near future. United States railwaymen are moving into Canada to work at the Great Northern slip, so apart from the departments of labour and transport the immigration people before long may be interested in this dispute.

I conclude by saying that bold action is required to institute regional regulations which would apply specifically to the situation in British Columbia, and this must be done immediately.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. Jim McNulty (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, in order to fully understand the towboat dispute it is useful to review its history. On August 20, 1969, at the request of the Canadian Merchant Service Guild, the minister appointed Mr. D. S. Tysoe as conciliation officer to deal with a contract dispute between the guild and the B.C. Towboat Owner's Association, Vancouver. The existing collective agreement was due to expire on September 30, 1969. On October 14, at the request of the minister, a joint committee comprising officers of the Department of Labour and the Department of Transport was established to examine safety and labour standards in the towboat industry. On October 28 the conciliation officer reported that despite many meetings over the preceding two months in the guild dispute he was unable to bring about a settlement. He recommended that a conciliation board be established.

On November 21, the minister appointed Mr. R. A. Gallagher, Q.C., of Winnipeg, as chairman of the conciliation board. The guild nominated Mr. Jack Moore of the IWA to the board and the association nominated Mr. Belair. On February 12 the minister received the unanimous report of the conciliation board which dealt with the guild dispute. Commencing on December 8, 1969, the board held some 17 formal hearings and made strenuous efforts to find common ground for a settlement. The board appended a draft collective agreement to the report. Recommendations were made on manning, accommodation and for a 10 per cent wage increase in each year of a two-year agreement. The report was immediately released to the parties.

On February 27 the guild requested the minister to reconvene the conciliation board to clarify certain recommendations in the report. The board made a further report to the minister on March 26 clarifying some 14 recommendations contained in the earlier report. On May 2 the parties met for further negotiations and mediation services were provided by Mr. W. P. Kelly and Mr. D. S. Tysoe, industry specialists. Mediation continued until Sunday noon, when the guild called a strike and negotiations were terminated. The breakdown in negotiations centred on the issue of manning. The Department of Transport committee on manning and safety had a successful series of meetings and the results of these meetings are being reviewed.

The present situation on the west coast is disrupting large numbers of innocent people, but the minister points out that the government has done everything possible to avoid this strike and is convinced that the parties can resolve the dispute. The full facilities of the Department of Labour both on the west coast and in Ottawa are available to the parties, and as soon as both parties indicate their willingness to resume meaningful negotiations, mediation will be provided. In the meantime, officers of the department are following the situation with great care.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION—
RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS FOR
SENIOR CITIZENS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon as recorded at page 6915 of *Hansard* for May 13, I asked this question:

Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State. In view of the representations made to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation by the Ottawa Senior Citizens Council requesting at least one program on radio and television planned by and for senior citizens, will the minister ask the CBC for a report on the possibility of agreeing to this request?

May I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that when Your Honour suggested that my question should either be put on the Order Paper or posted for a "late show," my first reaction was the normal one that we all have when you give us that admonition, namely, that you were being unfair to me. I thought about some of the questions that had been asked and accepted, and I asked myself, "Why does Mr. Speaker do this to me?" But, Mr. Speaker, 30 seconds later I found myself grateful to you. I felt you had done me a special favour.