

nature should not be replied to on the orders of the day, particularly when the matters in question are sub judice.

(Translation):

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister of Justice intend to make recommendations to the crown attorneys concerning those cases which are now before the court?

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, that question has been answered at least four times, and I certainly do not intend to give a reply which could in any way involve the Minister of Justice in a case or cases now before the court.

(Text):

LABOUR CONDITIONS

BELL ISLAND, NFLD.—REPORTED LAY-OFFS AT ORE MINES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour, after first congratulating him on his appointment. In view of the announcement of a major lay-off and an eight week shut-down period at Wabana iron ore mines at Bell island, Newfoundland, the community's only industry, may I ask the minister whether the government intends to take any action in this regard?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): I wish to thank the hon. member for his kind reference to me at the beginning of his question. In so far as the question which he asked is concerned, I shall be glad to investigate this lay-off to see whether any action can be taken in addition to the rather large array of anti-unemployment measures proposed in the speech from the throne.

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS NATIONAL PARK— REPORTED LAY-OFFS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria asked me whether I had received protests over what he described as indiscriminate lay-offs in Cape Breton Highlands national park. The answer is simply that I have received no protests because there have been no indiscriminate lay-offs. I think the question probably originated from the fact that on April 30 our department completed a piece of work on behalf of the Department of Transport which had been employing 25 men.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

REPORTED LAY-OFFS AT POINT EDWARD NAVAL BASE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last the hon. member for Cape Breton South asked a question, which I took as notice, with regard to the lay-off of civilian employees at Point Edward naval base at Sydney.

I am informed that a reduction in the refit work load necessitated the lay-off of nine casual ship repair labourers effective May 3, 1963. A release list was prepared in accordance with the department's standard point system, based on seniority, efficiency and veterans' preference.

The possibility of re-employing these personnel with other service establishments and government departments in the area is being investigated.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): As a supplementary question following the minister's answer, would the minister care to indicate what other areas in that particular region he has in mind for re-employment of these personnel?

Mr. Cardin: I understand there are other departments in the area where these people might be employed.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER MARKETING OF DRUGS AND CONTAMINATION OF FOOD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I love to ask questions of a lady. Is it the intention of the minister to propose, this session, that a special committee be appointed to consider and report upon (a) the law and practices relating to the control of the introduction, marketing and use of drugs and, (b) the danger arising from contamination of food by the use of chemicals to kill weeds, insects and other pests?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): It is always a delight to answer a question by a gentleman—an honourable gentleman. I should like to advise the house that the government is considering this matter and proposes to recommend to the house that a committee dealing with the area mentioned by my hon. friend be set up for this study.