

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Drury: The purpose of the meeting will be to hear representations by the tool and die makers as to conditions of employment in their particular trade.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): I should like to ask the minister if the government, at this proposed conference, will put forward any proposals for the alleviation of the hardship to those who are laid off by reason of technological change, in line with the recommendations of Mr. Justice Freedman in connection with the railway run-through cases.

Mr. Drury: The recommendations of Mr. Justice Freedman are now being studied with the care they deserve, particularly by my colleague the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. The government has a great interest in the report of Mr. Justice Freedman, but I am not sure his recommendations are at issue in this particular case. We will only learn this on the arrival of the delegation for the meeting here in Ottawa.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION—
PROSECUTION OF MEMBERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Justice which I consider most appropriate in view of the tabling of the report of the maritime trustees. In view of the fact that I have been reliably informed that papers, documents and records seized by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police from the offices of the Seafarers International Union in Montreal have been returned by the courts to the R.C.M.P., and in view of the fact that I have been reliably informed also there is evidence of fraud on the part of Harold Chamberlain Banks and other persons, will the minister inform the house whether charges are to be laid against those persons?

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice): The minister cannot say whether charges will be laid until all the evidence has been completely studied.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Some days ago I asked the Minister of Justice about certain charges that are pending against a number of individuals involved in the so-called march on Ottawa during the time the legislation on maritime union trustees was under consideration. At that time the minister was not sure whether it was a matter of persecution or prosecution, and he said he

[Mr. Hales.]

would look into it. I wonder if the minister could now indicate an answer?

Mr. Cardin: I do not know where the hon. member got the idea that I was not sure whether it was persecution or prosecution. I am sure it was prosecution. Offences had been committed under the Criminal Code. The charges are now before the courts and the matter is sub judice. There is nothing more I can add.

Mr. Howard: A supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has recognized another hon. member. We may return to the hon. member for Skeena.

**RESALE PRICE MAINTENANCE—INQUIRY
AS TO PROSECUTIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice. In view of the recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada upholding the legality of that section of the Combines Investigation Act forbidding resale price maintenance, can the minister advise what action he is taking or is about to take regarding the 15 or 16 similar cases that are now before his department, some of which have been there for as long as two years or more?

Mr. Speaker: Order. In view of the fact that some of the cases to which the hon. member refers have been pending for two years I wonder whether he might not wait another week and place the matter on the order paper.

BANKRUPTCY**REQUEST FOR TERMS OF REFERENCE
OF COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): May I direct a question to the Minister of Justice, and ask him if he has directed written terms of reference to the three man committee set up by him to study bankruptcies? If so, will he table them?

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice): I will look into this question, and if possible I will table them. It is my recollection that the terms of reference were arranged verbally with the superintendent.

Mr. Nielsen: May I ask a supplementary question. Will the minister inform the house whether the government is giving any consideration to suspending the operation of those