

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question, coming from a member of a party that is closely allied with labour. Surely the hon. member knows as well as anybody in the house that so far we have followed the law explicitly and that a conciliation board has heard union and management representations. The report of the conciliation board was received only yesterday by my department. I think it is a little premature to suggest openly, if I am prepared to suggest it at all, what the next step would be. I do not think it would be in the best interests of anybody to report unofficially, or officially through the question period, what steps will be taken, if any, by the Department of Labour.

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE**MILK—REQUEST TO ABOLISH TAX IMPOSED BY CANADIAN DAIRY COMMISSION**

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture, but in his absence, I put it to his parliamentary secretary.

Does he intend to recommend to the minister to review the 52-cent tax per hundred-weight of milk imposed by the Canadian Dairy Commission and to abolish it in respect of the unsubsidized surplus production?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think the question as asked is in order. The hon. member is not allowed to ask the parliamentary secretary if he intends to make a recommendation to the minister.

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION**METHOD OF IMPOSING FINES**

Mr. Jack Cullen (Sarnia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour, and I wrote this one myself.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): It might be allowed, then.

Mr. Cullen: Would the minister discuss with the Unemployment Insurance Commission their procedure of imposing punitive fines by way of penalty unilaterally without giving the alleged offender an opportunity to

be heard either on the question of whether a fine is warranted or on the amount of the fine?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure as to the urgency of the question or even as to its significance. May I advise the hon. member that I am tempted to interpret it as a representation made to the minister, and I am sure the hon. member can assume the minister will take his suggestion into consideration.

An hon. Member: Get another writer.

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order may I say that it was necessary for me to bring this matter to the attention of the house because of the publicity it received. I find that sometimes this is a very effective way of getting a message across to politicians and to the public.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

FISHERIES**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries, and I welcome him back from his fishing expedition in Nova Scotia. Has the minister any report to make on the results achieved at the important international fishing conference which he recently attended in Halifax?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that while this is a matter of importance he is asking for a statement by the minister which I suggest should be made on motions.

Mr. Crouse: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Could we have the unanimous consent of the house for the minister to make a report since international fishing regulations and the conservation of fish are involved?

Mr. Speaker: I hear the hon. member's confirmation that this is a matter of importance. If the house wishes to revert to motions for the purpose of allowing the minister to make a statement—

An hon. Member: Never.

Mr. Speaker: Apparently that consent is not forthcoming.