

Inquiries of the Ministry

office and I was informed that the statement had not been made in the house but that it had been issued in a press release. That is why I did not want to rise on a question of privilege. I wanted to ask the question again.

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, I will not discuss the question of privilege and I will limit myself to say that the program has been renewed for 1966-67 on the same basis as for 1965-66.

[English]

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): May I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration? Is he in a position to advise if there is going to be a winter works program for Cape Breton Highlands national park in order to help the people of that area, where I am advised approximately 50 families are on welfare? I may advise the minister I have posed this question to the minister who is in charge of parks, but perhaps the minister to whom I address myself today will have something on it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is repeating a question which he has asked before, and I suggest to him that is not in order.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. With all due deference, sir, I am advised by a very reliable person that there are approximately 50 families on welfare in Ingonish, Nova Scotia, the area of the park headquarters. The park comes under some minister. This man across from me is always most courteous about these matters, but it is a serious matter at this time and that is why I press it.

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): I should like to rise on the point of order, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the hon. member asked me if I had an answer ready to this question he had asked previously. I told him I did not have it ready yesterday, and I have not got it ready today, but I hope to have it ready soon.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): May I ask a supplementary question of the Prime Minister? Yesterday he assured me that the situation at Louisbourg would be rectified and that winter works funds would be made available so that the men laid off there would be reinstated. Has this taken place?

[Mr. Keays.]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): That was not, I believe, the assurance I gave. I said I would be glad to look into this matter. I have discussed it with the ministers concerned.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Will the Prime Minister check his answer of yesterday. He said then this would be taken care of, and his answer was a definite yes.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

PAYMENT OF TRANSITIONAL BENEFITS FOR DISPLACED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): I should like to ask the Minister of Labour if he is yet in a position to make any announcement about any change in the TAB payments to those laid off in the automobile industry?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): I regret that I cannot, Mr. Speaker. The matter presents some complications and is still under very serious and active consideration.

Mr. Starr: A supplementary question. In view of the importance of this matter, and consideration for the many people being affected by it, can the minister give any indication when he is prepared to make an announcement?

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, I can only say that it will be at the earliest possible date, let us hope within a matter of days.

INDUSTRY

REPORTED DECLINE IN SALES OF MOTOR CARS

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the question that has just been asked by my hon. friend for Ontario suggests that I should ask a question of the Minister of Industry. The latest Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures show that in the second quarter of 1966 there was a fall away of 19 per cent in sales of new cars in Canada. In view of this fact and the consequent acceleration in unemployment in the automobile industry, has the minister impressed upon the automobile manufacturers in Canada that their prices should be reduced in order to be put on a reasonable level approximate to that in the United States?