

Labour Conditions

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I would like to have the hon. gentleman restate that. I did not catch it.

Mr. BRUCE: As this paper is supposed to be the official organ of this government in the province of Quebec, would the minister not be willing to accept the report published in it?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: The minister knows of no newspaper that is the official organ of the government in the province of Quebec, and the minister will be guided by the advice of counsel who has been retained in Montreal and who is following, with the officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the progress of the investigation being made.

Mr. CHURCH: Is the minister not free now to admit that while the provincial elections are on the regulations that I referred to the other day for the defence of Canada have been in effect suspended?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: No.

Mr. CHURCH: Why is there not one law for the whole country? Why single out Mr. Houde for treatment in one way and treat others differently? May I ask also whether the habeas corpus act has been suspended?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I was not able to follow completely what the hon. member said, but I did catch the observation that there should be one law for everybody in Canada. There is one law for everybody in Canada.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I be allowed to point out to the Minister of Justice that it has just come to my attention that the same Jacques Sauriol has now himself stated that he may be in a concentration camp, or that he may be interned, for some of the statements that he has been making. Will the minister look that up in this morning's papers? I have just seen it.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I noted that, and there have been others who, being perhaps anxious for the role in which that would place them, have suggested that they might during an election campaign be interned.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**SHIPYARD WORKERS—REPORT AS TO STRIKE AT HALIFAX AND DARTMOUTH**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CLARENCE GILLIS (Cape Breton South): Late last night, according to reports, three thousand shipyard workers in Halifax and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, were likely to strike this morning. I would inquire of the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of

[Mr. Bruce.]

Labour whether the department has been successful in taking steps to avert a very serious disruption in that area.

Mr. PAUL MARTIN (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour): The hon. member gave notice of his question regarding the difficulty between Halifax Shipyards Limited and their employees. As he knows, negotiations have been going on now for some time between the employees and the company in regard to the renewal of the former contract. The department of Labour caused to be set up a board of conciliation which made its report, and since the negotiations commenced, and all through the negotiations and since the receipt of the report, the department has had its senior officer on the spot in contact with both parties in the hope that mutually satisfactory arrangements could be worked out. I regret to say that efforts in this direction have thus far not proved successful, and I can now only say to the hon. member that the department is leaving no stone unturned to resolve the differences and to try and see that the men get back on the fairest possible terms.

LABOUR REQUIREMENTS FOR HARVESTING OF ONTARIO TOBACCO CROP

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. C. SENN (Haldimand): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Labour, or in his absence to his parliamentary assistant, notice of which I sent to him last night. At a meeting of tobacco growers from the counties of Norfolk, Oxford, Elgin and Essex held in Simcoe recently a resolution was passed urging the national selective service board to make provision for supplying sufficient labour to harvest the tobacco crop which is now approaching the time when it must be harvested. Has the Department of Labour received this resolution, and if so what action is to be taken?

Mr. PAUL MARTIN (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour): I have no doubt the hon. member did send a letter of notice of his question, but it did not reach me. The minister happens to be absent, and on that account possibly the letter was mislaid. Other hon. members, particularly the hon. member for Norfolk (Mr. Taylor) brought this matter to my attention, and it is being discussed by the departmental officials to-day.

REQUEST FOR WESTERN FEMALE LABOUR FOR EASTERN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CANNING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. N. J. M. LOCKHART (Lincoln): I was unable to give the Minister of Labour notice of this question, but I believe that the