

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order. I assume the minister was not rising for that purpose, in view of the fact that he indicated he was rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could I be allowed to recognize the hon. member for Sherbrooke?

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): On a point of order—

Mr. Starr: I wish to ask a supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Cape Breton South is rising on a point of order.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): On a point of order, I feel that having directed a question to the Prime Minister I am at least entitled to an answer dealing with this particular question.

Mr. Speaker: According to the rules the hon. member is entitled to ask a question but, as he knows, I have expressed the view previously, which I believe is supported by ample authority, that no member is entitled to an answer. He may be dissatisfied with the answer he receives or he may be dissatisfied with the fact that he receives no answer at all, but it has been the practice for many years that no member can insist on either receiving an answer or on receiving the answer which he would like to receive.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. I take it from his silence that he is in agreement with the Minister of National Health and Welfare that they can do nothing other than ignore the miners of Cape Breton island.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Sherbrooke.

[Translation]

HARBOURS

MONTREAL—STEPS TO DEAL WITH ALLEGED VANDALISM AND THEFT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport, my question is addressed to the acting minister, the Member of the Administration.

In view of the thefts and pilfering which have been occurring with regularity in the harbour of Montreal recently, is the Department of Transport or the government taking the appropriate measures to check such depredations and damages to ensure a greater degree of success for Expo and avoid harming the international repute of Canada?

Mr. Speaker: The question of the hon. member should be put on the order paper.

Mr. Allard: At ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON APPLICATION TO FARM LABOUR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. I have received some letters from farmers who complain that no information is available as to when or how they can apply for unemployment insurance for their farm labourers. Has the minister sent out circulars or letters giving this information?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member shares my concern about this matter, which I have anticipated, and I have suggested to the commission that they should give wider publicity to their activities in this field. I believe they are doing so now.

TRADE

POTATOES—INQUIRY AS TO STEPS TO INCREASE EXPORTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce of which I have given him notice. Has the minister received any representations from the Prince Edward Island government for special measures to assist in obtaining new or larger markets for the large quantity of potatoes still in storage, and could he advise what helpful steps are being taken to meet the very serious situation facing thousands of eastern Canadian potato growers?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have received no direct representations from the government of Prince Edward Island, but I am aware of the