

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Mandziuk:**—and in view of the fact that I have written to the minister two letters to which he has not replied, would he reply now?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I am going to frankly admit that we have not got a hay cutting policy. When the hon. member suggests that this practice has grown up over the last 60 or 70 years, I am quite sure he will admit that previous governments have not had a hay cutting policy either.

We found that a great deal of hay was being taken out of our national parks for little or nothing. This year we instituted a policy whereby we decided to try to get a little something for it, and some of the farmers are not happy with that policy. We have put a value upon the hay which is cut in the several parks, and we are trying to make a charge equivalent to prices which exist for hay obtained outside the parks.

**Mr. Mandziuk:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Was it not a policy by which the department increased—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Mandziuk:** Oh, pardon me—the fee of 50 cents a ton to \$5 a ton, or about five times what the provincial government is charging on its lands?

**Mr. Laing:** All I wish to say is that we are endeavouring to make some of the practices of the national parks more businesslike than they have been in the past.

**Mr. Mandziuk:** Another supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have grave doubts about this question. The hon. member has had two supplementaries.

**Mr. Mandziuk:** I have just had one.

**Mr. Speaker:** In any event, it seems to me that the question should have been put on the order paper in the first place, but as it is Friday and with all the good will which is evident in the house I thought we could let it go.

**PRIVILEGE**

**MR. HERRIDGE—CONVICTION WHILE OFFICER OF B.C. LIBERAL PARTY**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege, [Mr. Mandziuk.]

which I rarely do. Living in daily and constant fear of the government dragnet encircling the reputation of members of parliament, I hereby wish to publicly confess my past misdeeds.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Knowles:** It is a short day.

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Speaker, in 1932 I was fined \$2 for failure to have a dog licence. At that time I was first vice president of the British Columbia Liberal association.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Herridge:** I trust, Mr. Speaker, that the lapse of time and the wisdom I have gained in recent years will indicate that I have paid my debt to society.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

**TIMMINS, ONT.—PROTEST RESPECTING TREATMENT OF UNEMPLOYED MINERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to answer a question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Timmins with respect to the payment of unemployment insurance benefits to miners at Timmins. There are two aspects to his question; first, the length of time the miners had to wait outside the office and, second, the size of the benefits paid in certain cases.

The unusual circumstance arose from the fact that 1,200 miners, accustomed to getting up early, arrived at the local office at 7.30 in the morning and because of the limited space available many miners, regrettably, had to wait outside in the cold weather. But it is a fact that the local office had augmented its staff and that by 2.30 some 1,200 applications had been received and processed. The size of the payments in certain cases arose from the shortness of the lay-off combined with the one week waiting period requirement of the Unemployment Insurance Act.

**Mr. M. W. Martin (Timmins):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the Minister of Labour would look into similar situations in the north country, where weather conditions can quite conceivably be as they were on that particular day. I have heard it was anywhere from 30 to 40 below zero. Would the minister see whether some better arrangement can be made to avoid similar incidents in the future, perhaps either dealing with the matter by mail, or