

cil to continue to operate the NASA tracking station at St. John's Newfoundland, which has also been closed down?

Mr. Drury: No, Mr. Speaker. This was a station being operated by Canada on behalf of NASA as part of a total world space program. Since this station was built by NASA, they concluded that, for budgetary reasons and because the fall-out of scientific information from that particular station had reduced very considerably, they no longer wished it kept open.

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question on this matter for the Minister of National Defence. Is his department giving consideration to re-activating Churchill as a military base in order to take up this slack and also to meet the demands he mentioned in his statement a month ago for greater military presence in the north?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, to the specific question of whether we are contemplating the re-opening of the base at Churchill, unfortunately my answer has to be no, at the present time. In answer to the other question about the Canadian presence in the north, I may say this matter will have to be studied with more precision by the task force that we are forming. I hope it will make some recommendations to the Minister in the near future so that we can better determine where the facility should be based in the north.

Mr. Baldwin: Why not send the *Bonaventure* up there?

Mr. Simpson: A supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must advise hon. members that we are running short of time. Other hon. members are anxious to ask questions and perhaps we might go on with some others and, if there is time, return to the question asked by the hon. member for Churchill.

MONTREAL—SMITH REPORT—REQUEST
FOR ACTION

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question about an important matter to direct to the Minister of Labour. Since the operations of the Port of Montreal were almost brought to a standstill

Inquiries of the Ministry

on October 21 because of a dispute between truckers and longshoremen, what action is the minister contemplating to bring this dispute to an end and assure the free movement of goods through the port? May I also ask if the minister has received the Smith report which has to do with an inquiry into labour unrest at the Port of Montreal? When will this report be tabled? May I also thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me at last.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that the labour unrest to which the hon. member has referred, and which brought the Port of Montreal to a halt yesterday, has been rectified and that the port returned to normal operations this morning. However, I should not want to mislead the House by saying there are no serious problems involving labour unrest in Montreal. I received the Smith report on October 2. There is now a translation. I hope the report can be the basis of action that will once and for all rid the Port of Montreal and, indeed, other ports in this country of many causes of labour unrest.

TRADE

SASKATCHEWAN—JURISDICTION TO ISSUE
POTASH EXPORT PERMITS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. May I ask, in view of the announcement by the government of Saskatchewan of its intention to institute minimum prices or price controls and disposal programs with respect to potash for export, and the obvious conflict of interest that arises in these two areas between provincial and federal jurisdictions, whether there was any consultation on this matter between the federal authorities and the government of Saskatchewan? If there was, has the federal government given permission to the government of Saskatchewan to issue export permits, or is it just looking the other way?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, there was plenty of consultation. The obvious possible conflicts were brought to the attention of the Premier of Saskatchewan; they were ones having to do with legality, feasibility, economic desirability, and so on. The premier is going ahead with his program. It is difficult, before we know exactly how it will look, to pass judgment on it. I, therefore, reserve my