

the Minister of Labour. Would the minister advise the house whether he has any news in respect of progress in the labour dispute between the C.B.C. and NABET.

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): This morning I received the report of that particular conciliation board. I might point out that it was a unanimous report accepted by the representatives of the union, of the C.B.C. and the judge. I have released it by registered mail today. I shall release it to the press around 3.30, and hope it will be ratified very shortly by the interested parties.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO COST OF AUTOMOBILE REPAIRS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether his department would consider initiating in this country an investigation similar to the one now being carried on in the United States by the United States Senate with regard to the alleged high prices and low quality of car repairs.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, like the hon. member we are aware of the inquiry which is going on in the United States Senate at the moment. We will obtain a copy of the evidence placed before that inquiry so we may judge its appropriateness to Canadian conditions. We are also aware that the legislative assembly in the province of Ontario may be starting the kind of an inquiry the hon. member suggests. Therefore, in the light of that we have to consider our own position here.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

REPORTED NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES OF TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour, arising from the proposed three months' notice of termination of employment given a number of permanent U.I.C. employees in Vancouver and other parts of the country. Could the minister advise whether it now is government policy to lay off permanent civil servants and replace them with casual help?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, you will realize that this is a loaded question. It is not and never was government policy. Anyone who is to be laid off by the Unemployment Insurance Commission will be given at least six months' notice as long as I am minister.

Mr. MacEwan: Will the minister advise whether a number of permanent civil servants are being laid off in the U.I.C. offices in Vancouver and in other areas of the country?

Mr. Mackasey: In order to get an honest answer from me the hon. member will have to be honest about the number he is talking about.

Mr. MacEwan: Answer the question.

Mr. Mackasey: The hon. gentleman opposite asked a question and I wish to answer it honestly. Over the next year there definitely will be a number of lay-offs in the Unemployment Insurance Commission. As all hon. members know, the Unemployment Insurance Commission has a degree of autonomy. The principle of the present commissioners, with which we cannot argue, is to render the best service with the least number of permanent employees. This is the policy; but the principal policy is service to the people. I understand that had they introduced these changes without prior consultation with the workers, 600 people would have been laid off. At the present time we have succeeded through negotiations with the unions to keep the projected number down to 75. Those 75 will be given official notice probably six months in advance so they can exert certain rights that are theirs under the Public Service Act.

AIRPORTS

TORONTO—PROTESTS AGAINST EXPANSION OF FACILITIES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport I should like to direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio. Has the Minister of Transport to date received any communication from the government of Ontario with regard to the expansion of Toronto international airport, as an outcome of the recent meeting between the local municipal officials and the members of the government of Ontario?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the government of