

a strong stand on this matter and make real representations and not the kind we hear from—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now making a speech. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate. Order. The hon. member for Fraser Valley West is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Rose: Mr. Speaker, my question was probably a little discursive. I admit that. The essence of the question is, is the minister prepared to make strong representations on this matter and when will he do it?

Mr. Lang: We have made strong representations. Alternatives are now being looked at.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

DISPUTE BETWEEN ALCAN AND ST. LAWRENCE WORKERS PROTECTIVE UNION—DEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT—FUND FOR DISABLED MINERS

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): I have a question for my friend, the Minister of Labour. Has the minister's department been involved in an effort to resolve the labour dispute between Alcan and the St. Lawrence Workers Protective Union, which has gone on since April 19, 1971, or is the department planning to become involved?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): We do not plan to get involved and we are not involved in it because the dispute falls under provincial jurisdiction.

Mr. Lundrigan: Perhaps the minister, in co-operation with the Minister of National Health and Welfare, can answer this question. Has the minister's department been requested to contribute to the fund for disabled miners or the families of deceased miners at St. Lawrence which was recommended by the Royal Commission on Radiation which was set up over two years ago?

Mr. Mackasey: I will have investigations made in my department to see whether such a request has been received. At the same time, I will take the liberty of checking with the Department of National Health and Welfare and will report back to the hon. member on an appropriate occasion in the House.

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TRANSPORT

BORDEN-TORMENTINE FERRY SERVICE—MODIFICATIONS OF NEW SHIPS

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Is his department taking urgent measures to carry out needed modifications of the

Inquiries of the Ministry

two new ferries on the Tormentine service before the tourist season reaches its peak?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I assume that the question has reference to the recent checks which were made with regard to safety adjustments and so on, and the answer is yes.

Mr. MacLean: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I have another matter in mind about which there have been a great many complaints. I refer to the lack of escalators or elevators in the ships which means that tourists of all ages have to climb 41 steps to get to the washrooms.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There does not seem to be any urgency to this question. It might be placed on the order paper.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

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INDUSTRY

[Translation]

CHEMCELL LIMITED, MONTMAGNY—DISCUSSION BETWEEN MINISTER AND COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES RESPECTING LAY-OFF

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Could he tell the House whether he had any discussions with Chemcell officials about the fate of hundreds of workers who are in danger of being laid off at the Montmagny plant?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Yes, Mr. Speaker, the department has had conversations with the employers and employees involved in the hope of arriving at the usual kind of manpower assessment agreement under our consultative services which may lead to the maximum of transfers and alternative employment being found for the employees involved.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

Would the minister tell this House whether the negotiations over the problem I have just raised suggest that satisfactory results will obtain for the workers?

[English]

Mr. Lang: The object of each of these exercises is to put forward the maximum of effort with the co-operation of the provincial government as well as our own and the employers and employees. Every effort is made to find suitable solutions for the individuals involved.