

*Inquiries of the Ministry***GRAIN****WHEAT—SHIPMENTS FROM VANCOUVER  
DURING STRIKE**

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatoon-Humboldt. Can the minister tell the House the amount of wheat that has actually been moved through the port of Vancouver since the beginning of the longshoremen's strike, and whether the volume has been normal?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is asking for statistical information. This is the type of question which should not normally be asked at this time.

**PENSIONS****FEDERAL SUPERANNUATES, RETIRED CNR  
EMPLOYEES—INQUIRY AS TO INCREASE**

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, now that Christmas is only 48 days away, may I put a question to the President of the Treasury Board. Is the minister hopeful that a decision regarding pension increases for federal superannuates will be made in time so that these people might enjoy a happier Christmas than is in prospect for some of them?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** I think the hon. gentleman knows I am always full of hope.

**Mr. Bell:** Like Scrooge.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport? I should like to ask him whether he is hopeful that something might be done to increase the pensions of retired employees of the CNR, also before Christmas.

**An hon. Member:** Are you full of hope, too?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Yes, and more of it.

**TRADE****NICKEL—EFFECT OF STRIKE ON DOMESTIC  
ECONOMY AND EXPORTS**

**Mr. Keith Hymmen (Kitchener):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce which bears some slight relationship to a previous question. I trust you, sir, will find my question more acceptable. I should like to remind Your

[Mr. Benson.]

Honour and members of the House that we in this country have other important export commodities besides wheat and grain, about which we hear so much. Can the minister advise the House concerning what initiative has been taken or what can be done to encourage the resolution of another serious situation. I refer to the prolonged strike at the International Nickel Company and the increasingly adverse effect of it on our domestic industrial economy as well as on our export position with regard to the production and supply of nickel.

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps the question as asked by the hon. member is somewhat more regular than the question asked by the hon. member for Calgary. The minister might try to reply to both questions at the same time.

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, the labour aspect of this problem is not under my jurisdiction or for that matter under the jurisdiction of the federal government. So my contribution, I am sorry to say is limited to prayers.

With regard to the other aspect of the question, concerning the influence the strikes in the nickel, copper and steel industries have had on the exports of Canada, I have a figure but I hesitate to put it on record because it may well be that once the strikes are solved the companies will pick up in their operations and exports will increase sharply.

However, there are other aspects of this question. The price of these metals has gone up and substitution of sources might be taking place. Other countries are developing mines for nickel and copper which might not have been developed had Canada been in a position to fill the requirements. All these aspects are terribly important, but again I hesitate to give a figure in respect of the damage the strikes have caused to our export position because, as I said, some of it may be picked up in the future.

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister consider placing an embargo on the export of scrap copper in order to relieve this situation?

**Mr. Pepin:** Is this scrap copper, nickel, or what?

**Mr. Hales:** Copper chiefly.

**Mr. Pepin:** I understand this is beneficial to Canada at this time. Some of this scrap—