

consulting with friendly governments in the area to determine how speedily the process should take place.

VIET NAM AND CAMBODIA—SUGGESTED CO-OPERATION
WITH UNITED NATIONS COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. Considering the grim prospect of the refugee problem in Indo-China reaching horrendous proportions, can he advise if Canada as a UN member has taken or will consider taking any initiative with Prince Sadruddin, so that that man and his organization might take immediate steps to deal with what obviously will be a very serious problem along the lines of his excellent initiatives in Bangladesh which are fully in accord with the 1967 protocol.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, our relations with the High Commissioner are very good. He has looked upon Canada as one of the most co-operative countries in the world and I am sure we will continue to deserve that reputation.

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[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE IN QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR
REPORT ON PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour.

Can he advise the House whether the bargaining in connection with the striking longshoremen in the Quebec City, Montreal and Trois-Rivières ports is progressing and, if so, can he assure the House that a final settlement is forthcoming?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, there have not been formal discussions. Informal bilateral discussions have taken place between some of my officials and the parties concerned, but I cannot predict at this stage whether there is any hope of settlement in this particular dispute.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the reply the Minister of Labour has just made, can the minister advise the House whether the picket line will soon be withdrawn, so that millers may get their supplies from the Montreal and Trois-Rivières terminals?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I understand there have been applications for injunctions but I do not know at this time if any applicants have been successful with further injunctions.

Oral Questions

ALLEGED DIRECTION TO CANADIAN LONGSHOREMEN BY
UNITED STATES UNION NOT TO UNLOAD SHIPS DIVERTED
FROM STRIKEBOUND QUEBEC PORTS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Labour concerns the strike to which the hon. member for Bellechasse alluded. What action is the minister taking in connection with directions given by United States union officials to Canadian longshoremen who are not on strike to refuse to unload ships diverted from any of the three strikebound Canadian ports?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, there is not much in the way of any formal action the government can take. I realize it has been suggested there has been this type of interference by the head office of the international union in the United States. Generally speaking, I think this is the type of action that Canadian unions repudiate. Also, I think all members of this House repudiate it. This type of interference should be resisted and I trust that the longshoremen in Canada will resist it.

Mr. Fraser: In the debate last night, the Postmaster General, in the absence of the Minister of Labour, spoke extensively on this problem in view of the fact there was an arbitration related to it with regard to a specific order that Canadian longshoremen not on strike refuse to abide by any directions from American officials to refuse to unload. Has the minister had any discussions or does he feel the most he can do at the present time is to depend on the good faith of the Canadian union? Is the minister powerless in this regard?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I am not powerless in the sense that if there are unionists, longshoremen in this particular case, who set up illegal pickets, whether it be of their own volition or at the instance of some foreigner, as is the suggestion in this case, they can suffer the penalties if we are successful in a legal action. The hon. member may know that an application for an injunction was taken out, particularly in the Saint John situation. My latest advice is in that particular case, the court turned down the application for an injunction.

LONGSHOREMEN AT SAINT JOHN—ALLEGED REFUSAL TO
UNLOAD SHIPS DIVERTED FROM STRIKEBOUND QUEBEC
PORTS

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, as some days have gone by since the directions were given that I have spoken of, are Canadian longshoremen not on strike at Saint John still refusing to unload cargo from any ships diverted from Three Rivers, Quebec City or Montreal?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, my latest information is not of a specific nature that I can reply with any degree of accuracy to the hon. member. I hope to be in a position to do so later today.