

United States railway company, the Great Northern, to build a right-of-way in British Columbia for the purpose of hauling Canadian coal destined for Japan? If so, what action has the government taken on the matter?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Of course our attention has been called to it. It is a matter which is now before the Canadian Transport Commission. The commission will deal with it in the normal way, and until such time as they have dealt with it it does not appear that any action is required either on the part of the Department of Transport or on the part of the government.

Mr. Dinsdale: A supplementary question. Inasmuch as the government of British Columbia seems to be closely involved in these matters, could the minister indicate whether he has had conversations with representatives of that government?

Mr. Jamieson: No, Mr. Speaker, I have not.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the neutrality of the Canadian Transport Commission in matters of this kind, since it is a judicial body, does the minister not think that the Department of Transport or the government of Canada should be represented by counsel acting as an intervener or holding a watching brief?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, that proposal is worth consideration and I will be glad to give it such consideration.

MOVEMENT OF GRAIN THROUGH PORT OF VANCOUVER

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport appears to be the only minister, other than the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who has not taken the vow of silence. Therefore I ask him, in the absence of the Minister of Labour, whether he can make any report that will give hope to the farmers of western Canada that transport will continue to be provided and that the loading of wheat will continue at Vancouver between now and Monday next, when the Minister of Labour will return once more to the House.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, all I can say in reply to that question is that the National Harbours Board, for which I report, is ready

Inquiries of the Ministry

to proceed as soon as a decision is made about the settlement of the strike. I assume that the only thing that can be done at the moment is to wait until the result of the vote is released tonight. If the result is satisfactory, we will move at once; if not, as the Minister of Labour has indicated, other steps will be taken.

Mr. Diefenbaker: If the vote is not favourable, will the House and the country have to wait until the minister returns on Monday?

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In the interval, while the government is dilly-dallying, could some boxcars not be diverted to Thunder Bay, rather than waiting for a decision with regard to the west coast ports?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that I would scarcely call an appropriate and proper procedure, in terms of voting, "dilly-dallying". If there is a delay beyond tonight, an indication has already been given in this House that steps will be taken to get the grain moving as fast as possible.

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Will the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour undertake to report tomorrow to the House and to the people of Canada the result of the vote.

Mr. Jim McNulty (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I will be in touch with the Minister of Labour this afternoon and will take that matter into consideration.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED U.S. NUCLEAR TESTS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. A couple of weeks ago, I believe, the minister indicated that the government of Canada had not at that time decided whether to make representations to the government of the United States, as it did on a previous occasion, expressing opposition to the United States decision to explode a massive nuclear bomb underground in the north Pacific. Is the minister prepared to make an early statement on Canada's position?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, on February 4, in answer to a similar question by the hon.