

Inquiries of the Ministry

DOSCO and the union are negotiating a contract, under what authority can they be so doing?

Mr. Pepin: Under the authority that exists when one party is the employer and the other the employees.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[*Later:*]

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I have a question for the Prime Minister concerning the proposed crown corporation. Is it the intention of the government to let the present management continue in that capacity?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I am not in a position to answer that particular, detailed question.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): May I ask a supplementary question, since the government is not in a position to answer that one. Does the government not think the miners of Cape Breton and Nova Scotia are entitled to a contract negotiated in good faith, and that authorization for such a contract should be given?

Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, they certainly are.

TRANSPORT**BRITISH COLUMBIA—STEPS TO SETTLE WHARFAGE DISPUTE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Grant Deachman (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Can the minister advise the house what steps he is taking to settle the current wharfage rate dispute on the west coast?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the other day I asked a senior officer of my department, not in the marine services, to undertake an investigation and make recommendations about this very vexed and difficult problem. I have here a copy of the letter I addressed to him, and if I could have the permission of the house I would be glad to table it.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):*]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**SAINT JOHN, N.B.—POSSIBLE CLOSING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport of which I have given him notice. Has the minister any information about the plans to merge or close out the individual C.N. and C.P. telecommunications offices throughout the country, in particular the C.N. office in Saint John which will affect 20 to 30 employees?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I did not receive the hon. gentleman's notice. I will have to take his question as notice now.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**DISARMAMENT—INQUIRY AS TO RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I understand that the 18-nation disarmament conference is reconvening at Geneva and that the President of the United States has urged all the nations concerned to move quickly toward a treaty for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Is Canada taking any steps or initiative in this regard?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman has said, this morning the disarmament committee opened its proceedings in Geneva. Yes, Canada has been actively engaged in consultations with certain countries, with the expectation that there will be tabled during the disarmament committee meetings a draft proposal for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. I believe I can say that the discussions which have taken place between the Soviet union and the United States, the major nuclear powers, have progressed to the point where there is every reason to believe that agreement may be expected between those two nations.

While there are some problems with regard to certain phases of the agreement, particularly with regard to safeguards, I believe that progress in this whole area should be anticipated. Certainly Canada has been very much engaged in the discussions.