Inquiries of the Ministry REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

SASKATCHEWAN—DECISION ON EXTENSION OF DESIGNATED AREAS

Mr. John Burion (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion I should like to direct my question to his Parliamentary Secretary. Could the Parliamentary Secretary inform the House whether a decision has been taken on proposals made recently to extend designated areas in Saskatchewan under the Regional Development Incentives Act? If so, could he inform the House of the decision?

Mr. Speaker: I would point out that it has been suggested on previous occasions that this kind of information should be given by way of a statement on motions or the question might be placed on the Order Paper. If there is particular urgency in respect of the specific question, the minister might be allowed to reply.

Mr. Burion: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that there have been developments since this subject was last referred to in the House. It is a matter requiring urgent consideration and I would hope the Parliamentary Secretary might be able to respond.

Mr. Martin P. O'Connell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I will bring the question to the minister's attention.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of Labour indicate whether there is any hope for an early conclusion of the Vancouver longshoremen's strike?

An hon. Member: It is over.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): It was over on Friday and the men returned to work on Saturday.

ROYAL VISIT

GRANTING OF AMNESTY TO INMATES OF FEDERAL PRISONS

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I had better preface my question to the Solicitor General by saying I have been home during the past week and therefore the information I am about to seek may have been given. I should like to ask the Solicitor General whether the government, in taking [Mr. Speaker.]

account of Her Majesty's visit to Canada this year, is considering the use of the Royal prerogative to grant a special amnesty to inmates in federal prisons?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): No, Mr. Speaker. I will pay attention to the representations made by the hon. member, but I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave a week or ten days ago.

IMMIGRATION

DEPORTATION OF DESERTERS FROM U.S. ARMED FORCES

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. Has the minister completed the inquiry into allegations of improper activity by officers of the RCMP in respect of the deportation of three Americans on January 25?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): No.

Mr. Nystrom: Could the minister indicate to the House when he expects the completion of the inquiry?

Mr. McIlraith: I expect to have the report within a few days—the sooner the better. However, until we find all the witnesses it is useless for me to use a crystal ball.

Mr. Nystrom: Will the minister undertake to make a statement on motions to the House when the report is completed?

Mr. McIlraith: I have already said in answer to the hon. member who raised the question a few days ago that I would give an answer to the questions posed by him. The nature of any answer and whether it would be on motions or otherwise will have to be determined when we see what the information is.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): When the minister said he was endeavouring to find the various witnesses, did he imply that the three individuals who were allegedly deported unlawfully will be consulted as potential witnesses, or that their side of the question will be reviewed and considered?

Mr. McIlraith: It is very doubtful whether we will be able to interview them, but I should add that I am quite sure the right hon. gentleman would be the first to check me if I were to attempt to bring in an incomplete report to the House.