

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Yes, that is our intention. Whether our intention will be carried out will depend on the decision of the house. We hope to get the legislation before the house in ample time for that purpose to be achieved.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Can he assure the house that before introducing this measure he will enter into the required negotiations with the government of the province of Quebec?

[Text]

Mr. Pearson: That matter has already been discussed with the provinces.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.—STEPS TO SETTLE
LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that a strike of longshoremen in St. John's, Newfoundland, has been in progress for about four weeks can the minister tell us what steps are being taken to assist in bringing the parties together to bring about a solution of this problem?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): The senior officer of the Department of Labour in the Atlantic provinces has been active in the situation for the past several days. The efforts undertaken by him and other officers of the department, in conjunction with a three man committee of the Newfoundland board of trade, have failed up to this time, and there is still quite a wide area of disagreement between the parties.

Mr. Starr: May I ask a supplementary question. In view of this failure, as the minister puts it, to bring the parties together, would not the minister consider trying to bring these parties together on his own initiative?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker; if the circumstances warrant further intervention by the department, that intervention will be undertaken. The parties have rejected a proposal for binding arbitration and the employers, as I understand it, have rejected a proposal for the establishment of an industrial inquiry commission. In this situation, I assure the hon. member for Ontario that at

any moment at which further efforts at mediation might be helpful, they will be undertaken.

**BASIS FOR FIGURES RESPECTING NUMBER OF
UNEMPLOYED**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Pierre-André Boutin (Dorchester): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour.

According to the dominion bureau of statistics there were 597,300 persons claiming unemployment insurance benefits on March 31. On the other hand, on April 18, according to official statistics, there were 403,000 unemployed persons across Canada.

Could the minister clearly explain the discrepancy between the two figures, since one is based on a report of the unemployment insurance commission and the other on a sample survey?

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member put this question on the order paper?

[Translation]

Mr. Boutin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to bring up this matter after ten o'clock.

[Text]

FINANCE**FAMILY ALLOWANCES—PAYMENT THIS FALL TO
16 AND 17 YEAR OLD STUDENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth): I should like to ask a question of either the Minister of Finance or the Prime Minister. Due to the fact that the amendments to the Income Tax Act having to do with the extension of family allowances to children 16 and 17 years of age attending school have been withdrawn thus far with the intention of introducing a comprehensive amendment some time later, can we be assured that children attending school this autumn will be in a position to receive these family allowances?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No one can give that assurance because it will depend on the decision of the House of Commons, and when that decision is given.

Mr. Monteith: May I ask a supplementary question. Will the legislation be introduced in the house in ample time to assure that those allowances are available?

Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker.