

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Cadieux (Labelle):** First of all, I think we should get together as to the date of the contract. What Mr. Nason of the Teachers Federation was talking about at the press conference was the 1967 contract. That contract provided for no change in the 1968 contract and there was therefore no room for discussion.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I would join in the applause, but the answer does not cover the situation. The contract which the minister mentioned—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Would the right hon. gentleman ask his question?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The question I ask the minister is: Why should the government of Canada refuse to deal with the Teachers Federation? Why was it not consulted?

**Mr. Cadieux (Labelle):** For the simple reason that there are two aspects involved in this situation—an agreement and a contract. The contract is one between the school boards who lend the teachers, the Department of National Defence and the teachers themselves. We agree that on general conditions of work, or general conditions of the contract, or questions concerning over-all agreements we should consult with the Teachers Federation, and this is what I have just undertaken to do.

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** A supplementary question. If teachers working for the department have a grievance, to whom do they look for redress?

**Mr. Cadieux (Labelle):** A teacher working for the department is assimilated in the rank of officer, and he has the same recourse as an officer. If he has a grievance he has the right to go before a board of inquiry, just as an officer has.

**SHIPPING**

## SALVAGE OF TUG "EMERALD STRAITS"

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the privilege of addressing a question to the Minister of Transport about the sunken tug *Emerald Straits*. Today I received information that seamen on the Pacific coast may decline to man steel tugs of the same design as that of the *Emerald Straits*, which sunk recently, unless action is taken to rectify apparent construction defects. Can the minister tell us whether a decision will be made to salvage

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

the tug in order to find out the reason for her sinking, and possibly to recover the bodies of the men who drowned?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Following the hon. member's question yesterday I asked for information on this matter and I hope I shall be able to provide it before the end of this week.

**AGRICULTURE**

## POTATOES—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON ASSISTANCE TO P.E.I. GROWERS

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, arising from disturbing reports over the last few days as to the number of farm auctions and disposals in Prince Edward Island. Has the minister initiated inquiries in Prince Edward Island as to the number of potato growers who, because of deplorable prices in the industry, will be prevented from planting this season, and would he tell us whether certain steps may be taken to alleviate this situation?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** We have not initiated a survey to gather the information in those precise terms but we are nevertheless aware of the economic and social problems associated with low potato prices.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Since the industry is the backbone of the economy in Prince Edward Island, will the minister agree to make such inquiries, in order that the full extent of the problem might be appreciated, and possible action taken?

**Mr. Olson:** I am not sure I should agree at a moment's notice to undertake a survey such as the hon. member has outlined. However, the department and the government are deeply interested in this problem and we have held a number of meetings in an attempt to find some way of meeting this difficulty which recurs all too often in connection with the marketing of potatoes.

[Translation]

**INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY**

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

According to Mr. Nadeau, a Montreal newspaperman, who says he is well-informed, there has been a Trudeau-Caouette agreement to fight Quebec separatists. As I am not aware of the terms of such an agreement, is the Prime Minister in a position to tell us about it?