

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** Can the minister say whether his ideas include the expansion of the park in New Brunswick?

**Mr. Laing:** We are thinking in those terms, Mr. Speaker.

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### BELL ISLAND, NFLD.—ASSISTANCE FOR UNEMPLOYED MINERS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** I wish to address a question to the Minister of Industry, and first say how glad we are to have him back in our midst. Last week the Prime Minister said that more than one department was looking into the problem facing the people on Bell Island, Newfoundland, and the Minister of Manpower and Immigration told us what his department was doing in this connection. I want to ask the Minister of Industry whether his department is conducting research, either on its own or through the National Research Council, into the possibility of upgrading the ore deposits on Bell Island or pelletizing the ore there in order to make use of the two billion tons of recoverable ore which are estimated to be on the island.

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry):** I thank the hon. gentleman for his kind expression of welcome. As far as Bell Island is concerned, extensive investigations were carried out about two and a half years ago as to the possibility of chemical treatment of the ore to make it appropriate for use in Canadian furnaces. I regret to say that in spite of the intensive research work done we have not as yet produced an economic answer.

**Mr. Douglas:** As a supplementary question may I ask the minister by whom these tests were conducted, and is it possible to get copies of the report?

**Mr. Drury:** Basically, Mr. Speaker, by the National Research Council together with outside consultants, and I will see if it is possible to make a copy of the report available to the hon. gentleman.

**Mr. Joseph P. O'Keefe (St. John's East):** May I ask the minister if those steps will be continued to investigate the problems of the ore at Bell Island.

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, I do not think the conclusions of those conducting these investigations were such as to warrant or justify continuing them any further.

### Inquiries of the Ministry

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

#### REQUEST FOR ANSWER TO QUESTION ON ORDER PAPER

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. R. Keays (Gaspé):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Public Works and ask him if he is waiting until he can give me an affirmative reply in answer to question No. 2,728 which has been on the order paper since March 10. This has reference to the harbour development at Chandler, Quebec.

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to look into the matter immediately.

[Translation]

### TRANSPORT

#### QUEBEC—SALE OF BAIE COMEAU-RIMOUSKI FERRY

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Transport.

Would the minister have any further information to give the house concerning the sale of the ferry *Père Nouvel*?

[English]

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I could perhaps remind the hon. gentleman that certain arrangements were made by the federal government to assist in inaugurating this service, and the contractor undertook to carry on the service until December 31, 1966. Since that time there has been no obligation on the part of the contractor toward the federal government, and any relation he would have now I should think would be with the provincial authorities.

### TRANSPORTATION

#### INQUIRY AS TO REPORT ON MARITIME STUDY

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport and ask if he could be charitable to us in the maritimes and tell us whether it will be this fall, or perhaps hopefully this spring, when we will get the maritime transportation study report?

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** Hope springs eternal, Mr. Speaker, and I hope it will be in the spring.

**Mr. Knowles:** What year?