

Inquiries of the Ministry

any member of the government has received a request from the government of Manitoba for financial assistance to pay for part, at least, of the cost of the program of provincial development announced by the premier of that province a few days ago, in which announcement he said the federal authorities would be paying part of the cost.

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): I have received no such communication, Mr. Speaker.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could answer the question the Leader of the Opposition directed to the Minister of Finance. The premier of Manitoba did communicate with me relative to a plan for flood control on the Red river. The supporting material was received just a few days ago, and is now under discussion.

SHIPPING

GREAT LAKES—STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PROTECT CANADIAN INTERESTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last the hon. member for Port Arthur asked the Minister of Trade and Commerce a question dealing with subsidized United States shipping in the great lakes, and as this matter comes under the jurisdiction of my department I shall attempt to answer the question.

I assume the service to which reference was made is that from United States great lakes ports to the Caribbean including calls at certain intermediate Canadian great lakes ports. This service is of course international in nature, and the ships in the service being United States flag ships will not be able to engage in the coasting trade of Canada, that is the carriage of goods from one Canadian port to another. They will, however, be able to pick up cargo in Canada for a foreign destination, or pick up cargo in a foreign port for a Canadian destination.

This situation is being followed closely by interested departments of government.

FINANCE

REPORTED INTENTION TO BORROW MONEY BY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Labour whether it is a fact that the unemployment insurance commission intends to stop selling securities which are entailing substantial losses as a result of the reduced market value of government bonds, and that it intends to borrow

money to meet its current heavy financial requirements resulting from the present massive unemployment?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that this question should more properly be directed to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I tried to ask a related question of the Minister of Finance the other day and he thought it was a question to be answered later. May I ask him now whether he can give a reply to this very important question?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, certainly no question resembling this one was directed to me the other day. Let me tell my hon. friend that the information he is seeking is just the kind of information that traders in the market would very much like to have, and it never has been the practice at any time to give that information to the public.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Is the Minister of Finance not aware of the dangerous state of the fund at the present time and of the implications of such an act on the fund? I ask him that question.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Minister of Finance has indicated that he does not think he should answer this question, and it seems to me it should be pursued at another time.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

NEWFOUNDLAND—REPORTED DENIAL OF BENEFITS TO LOGGERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Is the minister aware that unemployment insurance benefits have been denied since December 31, 1958 to the loggers who would otherwise qualify for insurance, if their last employment was not with the A. N. D. Company, regardless of whether or not they are members of the I.W.A.?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate was good enough to give me notice of his intention to ask this question, Mr. Speaker. In the short interval I have been able to get the following information. I wish to say, Mr. Speaker, that any persons laid off before the strike, if qualified in the ordinary course of events, were getting their insurance. Those laid off on account of the strike, of course, could not draw, under the section of the act which stipulates that loss of work owing to a