

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Not yet, Mr. Speaker, but I hope to do so soon.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, could the minister give some indication as to when "soon" might be, in view of the fact that it was some seven weeks ago that he indicated to me that the plans were in preparation, and it is only seven weeks to the time when the Kennedy round reductions come into effect?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, the time taken in preparing these plans is, I think, an indication of their excellence.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Hees: I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, but in his absence I will direct it to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Minister of Industry was answering for industry as such, is the government preparing plans to give similar protection to agricultural producers similarly affected?

[Later:]

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. A few minutes ago I asked whether the government was preparing plans to ease the impact of the Kennedy round tariff reductions on agricultural producers who were adversely affected and the Prime Minister did not answer. Do I take it from his refusal to answer that the government is not preparing such plans?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**SOUTHERN ONTARIO—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON WILDCAT STRIKE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. Could the hon. gentleman report whether the wildcat strike of postal employees in southern Ontario has now been settled; are they back at work, or has the strike spread, and what steps is the government taking?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, the strike is not settled. In fact I learned this morning that the employees of a further post office have gone on strike. This means that the employees of seven post offices in the Niagara peninsula are on strike. Union leaders are in Ottawa at

[Mr. Hees.]

the moment discussing the matter at the fourth level of their grievance procedure. These discussions are being held right at this moment.

FREIGHT RATES**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON NON-CARLOAD RATES IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. I should like to ask whether he is able to make today the announcement regarding freight tariffs, particularly in the Atlantic provinces, which was promised by the hon. member for Westmorland about a week ago and which the minister himself said he would make.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Not today, Mr. Speaker, but with a little bit of luck, very soon.

Mr. Knowles: With a little bit of luck we will get a new government.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the undertaking given by the hon. member for Westmorland was that the announcement would be made this week, would the minister tell the house whether, if not today, he will make it tomorrow or Friday?

Mr. Hellyer: That would be a very happy result, and I am cautiously optimistic, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister whether he thinks that with the "little bit of luck" he referred to, he will be able to get this government to the church in time?

An hon. Member: To the funeral.

Mr. Hellyer: As long as my hon. friend will be there when we arrive, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, the minister has been cautiously optimistic about his announcement. Could he go a little further and indicate whether his announcement will be made before the meeting a week from today, on November 15, of the interested parties with regard to l.c.l. rates?

Mr. Hellyer: I certainly hope so, Mr. Speaker.