

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** The hon. gentleman is acquainted with the statement contained in the speech from the throne yesterday that it is the intention to introduce a supplementary budget, as it has been called, before the Christmas recess. The exact date has not been announced, but it will be announced in due course. I am sure it will be early enough for the opposition.

INDIAN AFFAIRS—RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF  
JOINT COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. My question is based on what I hope is an omission in the throne speech. Can the minister indicate whether it is the intention of the government to move for the re-establishment of the joint committee on Indian affairs this session?

**Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

GRAIN HANDLERS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON  
STRIKE SETTLEMENT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Can the minister inform the house what action has been taken and what progress is being made toward settlement of the grain handlers' strike that constitutes a very serious threat to the income of western grain producers?

**Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour):** The facilities of the Department of Labour have been made available at all times to both parties to the dispute. As a result of the situation existing between the employers on the one hand and the labour unions on the other, and their failure to arrive at a satisfactory agreement, we have now appointed an industrial inquiry commissioner in the person of Mr. Craig Munroe, Q.C., of New Westminster. He is holding meetings each and every day in order to facilitate agreement between these parties.

**Mr. Argue:** May I ask the minister what information he has as to the progress being made toward a settlement? Does the commissioner look for an early settlement?

**Mr. Starr:** The reports we have from the commissioner are that he is hopeful the parties will be able to arrive at a settlement that will be acceptable to both parties.

[Mr. Garland.]

THREATENED RAIL STRIKE—INQUIRY AS TO  
GOVERNMENT ACTION

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier):** May I direct a question to the Minister of Transport and ask him what action, if any, the government is taking to deal with the nation-wide rail strike that is now contemplated for December 3?

**Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport):** Since this is a matter of national importance, I think the question might be directed to the Prime Minister.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** The question, of course, does deal with two departments of government, the Department of Transport and the Department of Labour. Arrangements have been made for a meeting to take place tomorrow in the city of Montreal to provide the opportunity for discussions between the ministers representing the government, the railway presidents and the labour unions concerned. The ministers will meet first with the representatives of the unions, and then later in the day with the representatives of the railways. Those who will represent the government are the Minister of Transport (Mr. Balcer), the Minister of Labour (Mr. Starr), and one other minister who is a member for one of the Montreal constituencies, the Postmaster General (Mr. Hamilton), will also take part.

**Mr. Chevrier:** May I ask a supplementary question. Has the government reached a decision on the matter of a subsidy to meet the wage increases?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is asking a broad question of policy. If the government should see fit to deal with it in this way it would be in order, but it is a question of policy.

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** May I ask whether the Prime Minister contemplates at any time taking part in these discussions which he has mentioned?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The Prime Minister will always take part in discussions when that will be beneficial. These are preliminary discussions and if, in the light of experience in the days ahead, the Prime Minister may be helpful in any way, either in his or the government's opinion, then of course he will take part.

**Mr. Chevrier:** I should like to follow up the question I asked earlier and inquire whether the Prime Minister would care to answer, as to whether a decision has been