

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The hon. member has laid the foundation for his question and I would ask him to put the question now.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, but these men are having a meeting to-night.

Mr. GRAYDON: The matter is urgent, Mr. Speaker, and I suggest that the hon. member ought to be able to go on.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I would like to ask the parliamentary assistant this question—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman has laid the foundation for his question and he must now ask it. The minister has had notice of it.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I was proceeding to do so. I would ask the parliamentary assistant if his department will give further consideration to the matter with a view to separating the two groups.

Mr. PAUL MARTIN (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour): The hon. member gave me notice of the question yesterday. The point under discussion is a ruling of the national selective service advisory board having to do with compulsory transfer orders.

For the information of hon. members I might say that under the compulsory transfer order plan civilians who are in certain classes of industry are asked to report to the employment office for interview to ascertain if they are suitable for transfer to work which is more important in the war effort. This plan has proven very successful; I am glad to say that it has actually been necessary to use compulsion in but very few cases. In fact, out of the thousands of cases where transfers have been effected there have been less than fifty who have raised serious objection. Usually it was found that the man is transferred to a position which pays a higher rate owing to the fact that men working in war industries are as a rule on a higher wage level.

Coming to the point of circular No. 227-58, up to July 14, 1944, the instructions issued on authority of the national selective service advisory board were that the compulsory transfer orders were not to be applicable in the case of returned men regardless of the nature of their service in the armed forces.

With the increasingly acute shortage of labour which has developed during this summer the advisory board came to the conclusion that returned men should be interviewed and transferred where feasible but that this rule should not apply to men who had seen service overseas.

I am informed that no objection has been taken by any individual returned men, but I do point out that all individuals ordered to transfer under this compulsory transfer system have a right to appeal to a board of referees.

The hon. member asks if the department will give further consideration to the matter and he can be assured that the matter is being discussed currently with the officials concerned.

QUEBEC ELECTION

PRESS REPORT OF STATEMENT OF JACQUES SAURIOL
IN MONTREAL ON JULY 9

On the orders of the day:

Hon. H. A. BRUCE (Parkdale): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. It is now nearly three weeks since he stated in the house that he had directed the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to make an investigation of the report published in *Le Canada* of a speech made in Montreal by Jacques Sauriol on July 9. I wonder if the minister is able yet to state whether he has received a report as to the accuracy or otherwise of the newspaper item.

Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Minister of Justice): Though I received no notice that it was the hon. gentleman's intention to bring this matter up this morning, and therefore have not brought here the preliminary reports I have received from time to time from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as to the progress being made in their investigation, I can from memory state that there has been found one reporter who claims to have been present at the meeting and to recollect the statements that were made. It was also suggested that notes of what was going to be said had been delivered to the reporter of another newspaper and efforts were made to ascertain whether or not that was so. It so happened that the city editor of that paper and the reporter were not available until last Monday. They were interviewed and they have not yet been able to find those notes. At the present time the situation is that there is one person who claims he could vouch for the accuracy of the statement made in the paper. The matter is being investigated under the supervision of the lawyer who usually acts in Montreal for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and he is receiving daily verbal reports from those who are conducting the investigation.

Mr. BRUCE: As this is the official paper of the government in Quebec, would the minister not admit the accuracy of that report?