

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

report from the Minister of Labour on the serious wildcat strikes and slowdowns that have been developing on both CP and CN rail lines? Is the Minister of Labour taking immediate action to intervene, to mediate and to achieve a contract settlement between the labour unions and the railroads?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to direct the question and the request for a report to the attention of the Minister of Labour so that he may give the necessary information. Based on the previous performance of the Minister of Labour I can assure the hon. member that every possible step will be taken in this situation.

\* \* \*

**AGRICULTURE****FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING BILL—REPRESENTATIONS FROM WESTERN CANADA HOG PRODUCERS REQUESTING EXCLUSION**

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Has he received representations from the various hog producers associations in western Canada requesting exclusion from the provisions of Bill C-176, and can he indicate the nature of his reply?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have no notice that I have received such correspondence but I will look into the matter.

\* \* \*

**TRANSPORT****SPECIAL FREIGHT RATE ASSISTANCE TO MARITIME SHIPPERS TO REPLACE STATUTORY SUBSIDIES**

**Mr. Charles H. Thomas (Moncton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport but in his absence possibly I may direct it to his parliamentary secretary. As there has been growing concern among Atlantic shippers, most recently expressed by the Maritime Co-Op Services in a letter to the minister, that subsidies under the Maritime Freight Rates Act are being phased out without any announcement of other special assistance, as promised by the government, will the parliamentary secretary advise what action is being taken on the recommendation of the federal-provincial committee that the government immediately draft regulations to provide such special assistance?

**Mr. Gérard Duquet (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, officers of the department are looking into that matter very closely and preparing a prompt answer for the minister. That is all I can say at the moment.

**Mr. Thomas (Moncton):** Would the parliamentary secretary indicate when we may expect special legislation in the House?

[Mr. Gleave.]

**Mr. Duquet:** Mr. Speaker, probably it will be soon, but I would rather the minister answered that question.

**Mr. Thomas (Moncton):** The report is two years old, Mr. Speaker.

\* \* \*

**OIL****STUDIES OF POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF PIPELINES ON NORTHERN ECOLOGY**

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Are any ecological studies under way in the minister's department or any other department to determine the possible effects of oil pipelines on the ecology of the north?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, as I think I indicated in the debate on this subject matter the other day, comprehensive surveys have been under way for more than two years, not only by the department, but by the National Energy Board, universities and the private sector, which cover all aspects of research required. I think the hon. member for Athabasca asked me specifically about the ecology, and I do not think I was able to answer him at that time. But certainly ecological studies are among those being very actively pursued.

**Mr. Harding:** Where are these ecological projects being carried out and who is conducting them?

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, this is a very lengthy question to answer on orders of the day. They are being carried out in many areas and by many entities of both the private and public sectors. I can try to give the hon. member a more comprehensive reply, possibly in a debate or on estimates when they are considered.

\* \* \*

**AIR TRANSPORT****OVERCHARGING OF CANADIANS ON INTERNATIONAL AIR FARES—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT**

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for either the Minister of Transport or the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, both of whom are on the roster to be present today and both of whom are absent. Perhaps I can get around the dilemma by addressing the question to the Acting Minister of Transport or the parliamentary secretary. In view of the statement of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs passing the responsibility for protecting the interests of Canadian consumers who were overcharged on international air fares to the Minister of Transport, will the Minister of Transport make a definite statement on this matter as soon as possible?

**Mr. Gérard Duquet (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to say that whatever has been said on this matter is not quite right.