

Inquiries of the Ministry

have given him notice. Is it the intention of the government to deprive 160 Canadian citizens who are employed as seamen on gypsum transportation vessels the right of participating in the Canada Pension Plan, while at the same time demanding that they pay Canadian income tax?

Mr. Speaker: I should like to invite the hon. member to place this question on the order paper.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Public Works in his capacity as leader of the house. Has the government given any consideration to the statement made last Friday by the Leader of the Opposition, who said we had covered some 15 departments during our consideration of the estimates, and that in order to assure that supply would be available the official opposition would be prepared to give consent to the introduction of the necessary appropriation bill, and then give it first, second and third readings right away.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): I am afraid the opposition house leader was under some misapprehension as to what the Leader of the Opposition did say on that occasion.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. McIlraith: Well, some of the newspapermen who wrote stories for today's papers were also under this same misapprehension.

An hon. Member: Read *Hansard*.

Mr. McIlraith: Yes, I have read it very carefully in the light of what was said. I have read it several times. In any event, *Hansard* now indicates that the departments which the Leader of the Opposition had in mind at the time were those which had already been passed. I had heard that, and I heard him say at one point that he included the other items in the Department of Justice except, presumably, item one. Then, at another point, I thought he intended to include the other departments not yet passed. Unfortunately, when I checked to inquire what was meant when this second reference was made, I was told it meant only the departments which had already been passed. This does not help materially to solve the very serious problems confronting the government with respect to

[Mr. Crouse.]

paying its accounts. The expenditures which are required to be made involve all the departments, particularly the Department of Public Works, as well as those already passed.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Call Public Works immediately this afternoon, so that you will not be troubled.

Mr. McIlraith: That was my request at five o'clock on Friday, and that was the request which was rejected.

In any event, rather than try to discuss the matter here in the house I would prefer to discuss it with the house leaders and consider what our position should be, because it seems to me the suggestion would not meet the problem. However, I will look into it and communicate with the other house leaders.

[Later:]

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the question asked by the hon. member for Ontario about the matter of an appropriations bill, I want to ask the government house leader if he has been able to determine what date the appropriations bill is required, so that no salaries, wages or cheques for government services during the current month will be issued later than usual?

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I doubt whether this question is in order because the hon. member is asking for an interpretation of a statute, or for a legal opinion. On the other hand, I realize the importance of the matter, and if the hon. minister is prepared to reply to the question at this time I shall allow him to reply.

Mr. Olson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am not asking for an interpretation. This is a matter of mechanics and I hope the government house leader would know when some cheques may have to be withheld.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, the strict answer to the question is Friday of last week, but that involved relatively small amounts arising mainly out of certain payments to contractors for services rendered. Some of the service work, like cleaning and that sort of thing, is done under contract, and in some of the smaller cases payments have not been made to the contractors. Then, there is the question of casual help, which is spread about the country in different places, and some of this casual help may not have been paid.