

## LABOUR CONDITIONS

### SUGGESTION GOVERNMENT REQUEST INCO TO RESCIND ORDER FOR LAY-OFFS

**Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** My question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that International Nickel of Canada announced the layoff of some 3,000 workers at Sudbury, Thompson and Port Colborne and that since that time the workers have made specific proposals to the company which the company is studying—the proposals are to alleviate the hardship of a 3,000 man layoff in 16 weeks—and in view of the fact that time is needed for the company and for the workers to sit down and negotiate these points without the gun of 16 weeks being held to their temples, will the Prime Minister get in touch with the president of the International Nickel Company and the chairman of the board and ask them to rescind the layoff order to allow time for these negotiations to come to fruition?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I understand that the union is meeting with management on Tuesday to make these proposals about which we do not have any detailed knowledge. I suggest that the two parties should attempt to reach an agreement on the basis of those proposals or others, and I see no need at this time to ask the company to rescind an order which will only take effect in 16 weeks.

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## TRADE

### REASON FOR IMPORTATION OF NICKEL CARBONATE IN VIEW OF CANADIAN SUPPLY SITUATION

**Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** It is fairly obvious that the Prime Minister does not understand the effect of a layoff in an area such as Sudbury which is dependent on one industry, so I will direct my question to the Minister of Finance because he has had 48 hours to report to me and to the House with respect to the importation of nickel carbonate. Can the minister tell the House why it is that Canada imports nickel carbonate from the Philippines destined for a Canadian refinery when we have the stuff coming right out of our ears?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** I would like to answer that question, Mr. Speaker. I have made inquiries to find out what the situation is. This nickel carbonate is related to a special kind of process associated with the Sherritt Gordon Mines. The kind of feed stock which is produced by other nickel mines in Canada is unlikely to be suitable for this. The other point which needs to be made is that the other nickel mines have their own refineries in any event. I think the most important part of the answer is that the briquettes which are made from both foreign and Canadian sources are exported so that the added value of the reprocessing in 94 per cent of the output of the Sherritt Gordon mine is exported.

## Oral Questions

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that a couple of weeks ago the Prime Minister told people in London that Canadians must work harder, must tighten their belts, must spend less and must live within their means, is he prepared to come to the Sudbury Basin and tell the people there that they do not work hard enough, that they need to live within their means and that they need to spend the money they do not have?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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## POST OFFICE

### REQUEST FOR REPORT ON CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS— POSSIBILITY OF APPOINTING CONCILIATOR

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** I should like to direct my question to the Postmaster General and to remind him that there have only been six days of negotiations since October 5 and that negotiations have broken off and, according to the latest reports, the talks are "going badly". Does the Postmaster General agree with that position which was taken by a member of the union and, if so, why?

● (1122)

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, there has not been a breakdown in negotiations. The hon. gentleman has indicated that the negotiations are going badly. That might be a more accurate statement. An impasse has been reached. It is an impasse which we will undoubtedly resolve. I point out to the hon. gentleman that we have been negotiating since October 5, and although he indicates that there have been only five days, those five days have been very productive. I have indicated in the past that there has been a change of attitude in the union, and the meetings have been congenial. However, undoubtedly when we are dealing with unions such as CUPW, which has always been very militant, there are bound to be impasses. I only regret that the union saw fit, instead of waiting until Monday to hear what position we are going to take in terms of their demands, to call a press conference and create this disquietude in terms of continued mail service within the country.

**Mr. Alexander:** I do not think the minister's rhetoric will help the collective bargaining process. There is no doubt about that when the minister continually talks about the union being militant. Has the union or has the minister decided whether there is a need for a conciliator to be brought into this picture?

**Mr. Blais:** Far from my being inflammatory by calling the union militant, I am sure the union appreciates my calling it militant because it prides itself in being one of the most militant in Canada. I am sure there is nothing wrong with my saying that.

With reference to the question of a conciliation officer or a conciliation board, again the hon. member refers to the fact