

Inquiries of the Ministry

to send Bill No. 449 to the standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines and, if so, will an opportunity be given to the Canadian Trucking Association to appear before it?

Mr. L. Langlois (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transport): The matter is still under consideration.

COAL

REPORTED CLOSING OF NOVA SCOTIA MINES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. J. MacEachen (Inverness-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. In view of the announcement that eight pits of the Dominion Coal Company will be idle for about six days, is the minister able to tell the house whether any success has been achieved in efforts to promote the sale of Nova Scotia coal in the United Kingdom?

Hon. George Prudham (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, I understand that about eight mines of the Dominion Coal Company have been shut down for about six days owing to a large accumulation of slack coal. The government has authorized the payment of a subvention on the movement of slack coal to Great Britain on an experimental basis, up to 100,000 tons at a maximum of \$2.50 per ton. I am happy to be able to say that the company reported yesterday that they have made a sale of 100,000 tons and the first vessel has been chartered and will start to load slack coal at the end of this month.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

INQUIRY AS TO CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister inform the house when we will be dealing with the estimates of the Department of National Defence?

Hon. R. O. Campney (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I am not the leader of the house and therefore cannot give the Leader of the Opposition a definite date. I spoke to the leader of the house a day or so ago and suggested toward the end of next week. The matter is within his jurisdiction, however, and I am not sure just when he intends that the committee shall take up defence estimates.

[Mr. Campbell.]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTAMENDMENT TO INCREASE BENEFIT RATES,
ADJUST CONTRIBUTIONS, ETC.

The house in committee on Bill No. 328, respecting unemployment insurance—Mr. Gregg—Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

The Chairman: This bill has been considered by the standing committee on industrial relations. Hon. members will find certain amendments set out on pages 688 and 691 of *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, June 8.

On clause 1—*Short title.*

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour): Mr. Chairman, in bringing this bill back to the committee of the whole I can report that it has received careful consideration and fair treatment by the standing committee on industrial relations. All I want to do at this time is to thank sincerely the members of the standing committee for the helpful manner in which they approached their task and the useful job they did in connection with the bill when it was before the committee and when representations were made there by outside bodies.

Mrs. Fairclough: Mr. Chairman, on the introduction of this bill to the committee of the whole I should like first to make a personal remark and say to the minister that we appreciate the fact he is leaving after today to attend the sessions overseas of the international labour organization. We wish him a pleasant voyage and successful work in these sessions. We trust that the deliberations will be both interesting and informative to him and that the information he will gain there will be of value to his department.

Mr. Gregg: Thank you.

Mrs. Fairclough: Mr. Chairman, with reference to the bill which is now in the hands of this committee, as the minister has said, this bill had careful consideration by the members of the standing committee on industrial relations. The report which is now presented to the house does not really indicate the extent to which these various questions were considered, but does provide the opinions of the majority of the members of the committee. With some of these opinions, the members of the official opposition agree; in some cases we think they did not go quite far enough, and there are still some sections of the bill with which we do not agree.

As I said on second reading in this house we believe that, generally speaking, the act is greatly improved by the amendments which are brought forward in this bill. For that