

*Inquiries of the Ministry*  
**SHIPBUILDING**

CANADIAN VICKERS—DISCUSSIONS  
RESPECTING LAY-OFFS

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** A question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Is the minister in a position to give a report to the house on the progress of discussions reportedly going on between Canadian Vickers and the Government concerning 800 lay-offs in the shipbuilding industry?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** We had a meeting yesterday with the Shipbuilding Association, of which Canadian Vickers is a member, and reviewed the situation of shipbuilding in Canada. Two things were decided: First, that the government would recognize the importance of shipbuilding in Canada, and we do; second, that a committee of industry and government would be formed to study the situation as it now exists and will be in the next year or so. We agreed and the committee will make recommendations to the government.

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** May I ask if the Minister of Transport attended this meeting? If so, did he put forward the case for the merchant marine as forcibly as did the government during the last election campaign?

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

[Translation]

[Later:]

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I find that I did not give an adequate answer to a question asked earlier by the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt). I gave a general answer without mentioning the *Vickers* in particular.

I should like here to refer the hon. member to a statement made yesterday by the president of Vickers—it was published in *Le Devoir* on January 30—to the effect that he recognizes the difficulties the shipbuilding industry is going through. He says however that the maintenance and repairs side of it is doing very well and that 50 per cent of his company's business comes from its industrial branch, which gets help from the federal government.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

[English]

**HOUSING**

PROVISIONS TO ASSIST LOW INCOME  
CANADIANS

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport in his capacity as the minister responsible for housing. In view of the opinion stated today by the Canadian Welfare Council that proposals of the task force on housing contain no proposals to help poorly housed Canadians—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member should ask the question directly.

**Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** I am ready. Could the minister say what proposals if any he has in mind to help the one million Canadians with incomes under \$5,500?

**Mr. Speaker:** The question as asked by the hon. member is very wide in scope. I would think she is asking the minister for a statement on policy which should not be made at this time.

**POWER**

NELSON RIVER, MAN.—ALLEGED HARMFUL  
EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Has the federal government been given an opportunity to evaluate a so-called secret report submitted to the government of Manitoba concerning power development on the Nelson River which report reputedly claims that present plans may be harmful to at least four viable communities including the port of Churchill—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member should ask his question. He should not make an argument.

**Mr. Osler:** Has the minister had an opportunity to see this so-called report and evaluate its harmful effect on at least four communities?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** It has not been brought to my attention, if it exists, but I would be glad to make inquiries.

**GRAIN**

VANCOUVER, B.C.—MOVEMENT TO LOAD SHIPS  
IN PORT

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question