

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Herridge:** It was a report which many of us consider there are good grounds for believing, to the effect that the premier of British Columbia suggested it might be necessary to call an immediate election in certain circumstances.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** The premier indicated his wish that parliament should ratify the treaty before dissolution, but he did not indicate to me that he proposed to call a provincial general election in British Columbia if that course were not followed.

(Translation):

**DEFENCE PRODUCTION****PROTEST RESPECTING SUBMARINE CONSTRUCTION ABROAD**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. E. Bissonnette (Quebec West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Defence Production.

Would the minister care to comment on a telegram from the Lauzon shipbuilding workers' unions addressed to several members from the Quebec area, to protest against the building of Canadian submarines abroad?

**Hon. Raymond O'Hurley (Minister of Defence Production):** Mr. Speaker, on April 17 I received a telegram from the workers' unions of Lauzon, protesting against the construction of a submarine in England.

First, I must say that no contract of the kind was awarded abroad, and if it should ever happen, I can assure the workers of Lauzon that they will be protected by other contracts more beneficial to them, such as the construction of frigates provided for in the new program, as well as the conversion of frigates of the existing fleet, and their share of repairs to our warships, as in the past.

We want to provide work for our defence industry in compensation for contracts we award abroad, and that, always in order to help certain sectors of that industry which are now undergoing some serious difficulties, like our aircraft industries, for instance.

**Mr. Maurice Bourget (Levis):** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Does the Minister of Defence Production not think that the very idea of asking for tenders—

Some hon. Members: Order.

**Mr. Bourget:** —in view of buying submarines in England is an insult to our shipyards as well as to our qualified workmen in Lauzon and elsewhere in Canada?

**Mr. O'Hurley:** Mr. Speaker, before the hon. member for Levis speaks of insults, he should get some information with regard to circumstances connected with this matter.

**Mr. Bourget:** Mr. Speaker, I have another supplementary question. Is it the policy of this government, in view of helping our Canadian industries at a time when we have many hundred thousand unemployed people, to consider the question of dollars and cents?

**Mr. O'Hurley:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member for Levis wants to discuss the matter of Canadian defence contracts, I am ready to explain what we have done and to point out the premiums we have paid to keep those defence contracts in Canada, but there is a limit to the amount we can pay in order to do so.

**Mr. Bourget:** Mr. Speaker, another supplementary question. Does the minister—

(Text):

A supplementary question—

**Mr. Speaker:** The last two supplementaries appeared to me to be more of the order of a debate than a search for information. I recognize the hon. member for St. John's West.

**Mr. Bourget:** With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, I should like to address myself to the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Bourget:** The matter concerns—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I will come to the hon. member in due course. I recognize the hon. member for Lapointe.

(Translation):

**INQUIRIES FOR RETURN**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Augustin Brassard (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State.

On February 26 last I asked the Secretary of State, through the Minister of Transport, to provide me with certain documents concerning the Boisjoli affair. I wonder if I will get an answer before the dissolution of parliament is announced.

**Hon. Noel Dorion (Secretary of State):** I shall take the hon. member's question as notice and try to answer it as soon as possible.