

Inquiries of the Ministry

the treasury board will put the integrated system into effect following an operational study at each port of entry involved. These studies are expected to be completed before the end of the fiscal year 1963-64.

The integrated system of primary inspection may involve the transfer of approximately 200 positions from immigration to customs. It is expected that about 100 positions will in time—and I repeat “in time”—become surplus to requirements. I wish to make it clear that no immigration or customs officer now employed is to be deprived of his job. Immigration officers who are transferred to customs will benefit from two channels of promotion, by being made eligible to apply for promotion in the customs and immigration services.

Greater efficiency resulting from an integrated customs-immigration primary inspection will be reflected in two ways; (1) quicker examination of returning Canadians and visitors entering Canada from the United States; (ii) reduction in cost.

As the examinations will be achieved with less staff, the ultimate saving is estimated at \$500,000 annually.

The main ocean ports and international airports of entry will not be affected.

Staff associations have been informed of the details of the implementation of the proposed integration plan.

LABOUR RELATIONS**NORRIS REPORT—REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION BEFORE SUMMER RECESS**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister give consideration to bringing before the house before the adjournment of the legislation to which reference was made yesterday, implementing several of the recommendations of the Norris commission? I ask this because the information I have, if I might be allowed to make this statement at this time, is that it is not a very difficult matter to draft this legislation.

From what was said a few moments ago by the Minister of Justice it is apparent that we are not going to adjourn today. That being so, would the Prime Minister not think that we should go ahead now rather than leaving the matter up in the air? There is unanimity of support for action to be taken; all parties in the house are agreed. Otherwise there may very well be an invitation to further lawlessness and disorder and a tie-up of shipping which could certainly be obviated and avoided by action now.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):

As was pointed out yesterday, action could be taken by enabling legislation, and it could be taken quickly; but that would involve giving the government power by order in council, and I am sure the right hon. gentleman would not approve of this. To have the legislation prepared in detail would require a great many days of hard work by the draftsmen, and it was not possible to begin preparation of the legislation until it was clear this was the best way to proceed.

I would point out, as was pointed out yesterday by the Minister of Labour, that it was only two days ago that the labour unions affected all agreed, except the S.I.U., to a trusteeship. It would be impossible in the circumstances to have this difficult and complicated legislation prepared within a matter of weeks. It may require a strict examination of the constitutionality of the legislation, and it might mean getting in touch with the provincial governments concerned in case they have some views to express on that point. Therefore it would not be practical to take the course of action recommended by the right hon. gentleman unless the house intends to continue in session for two or three weeks longer.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): I ask the Prime Minister if he would not consider the request made by the Leader of the Opposition in view of the interview which Mr. Staples, president of the national maritime union, gave this morning in which he said that if action is not taken now a blockade will be carried out by that union; that he is not prepared to wait three months for action, but wants action now.

Mr. Pearson: I listened to the report in question, and I hope it is far too pessimistic in respect of the violence which it was indicated might take place. I hope very much that the indication that this legislation is being prepared and will be made effective will hold the situation during the summer. Moreover, the Minister of Labour has said that if the situation deteriorates and violence does take place the house will be called together at once. The hon. gentleman knows, because he has had some experience with legislation of this type, that it cannot be drafted within a few days.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): May we have some assurance from the Prime Minister that when legislation is drafted it will provide for a government trusteeship rather than the substitute action to which the Minister of Labour made some reference yesterday?