

that the parties have not been able to arrive at a settlement on their own, will the minister not use his good offices, take a personal interest in bringing these parties together, sit down with them and help them to bring about a conclusion to this strike?

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, the minister is following the matter very closely.

Mr. Starr: So are we.

Mr. Nicholson: These negotiations are going on between management and labour. I understand that they are making progress in these negotiations and I do not think the minister should intervene when the parties are working together in this atmosphere.

Mr. Starr: They are not getting anywhere. That is the job of the Minister of Labour.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

WEST BLOCK—REPORTED REDUCTION IN ELEVATOR SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David MacDonald (Prince): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. It is a question of some urgent moment to the members and staff of the house. Is it true that at least one of the elevators in the west block has been officially condemned, and what steps does the minister plan to take to restore effective elevator service in that building?

Mr. Speaker: This is a particularly urgent question to members of parliament, but I suggest it might be discussed between hon. members and the Minister of Public Works.

CANADIAN FLAG

SUGGESTED PROCLAMATION OF FLAG DAY AS HOLIDAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that this is the first anniversary of the new flag and in view of the fact that there are no national holidays between New Year's and spring, would the Prime Minister consider declaring February 15 national flag day and a national holiday?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: It is an interesting suggestion and the hon. member may wish to place it on the order paper.

Inquiries of the Ministry

HEALTH AND WELFARE

PESTICIDES—RESIDUE IN TISSUES OF MARINE ANIMALS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent (Ont.)): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. It is based on the fact that there has been some very adverse publicity about the matter in the last few days. Are any research efforts directed by his department into an examination of residue properties in agricultural chemicals to determine whether or not they may be directly responsible for problems connected with the use of fresh water fish as food for humans, animals and birds, both wild and domestic?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member for Kent (Ont.) would place this question on the order paper.

[Translation]

WINTER WORKS

QUEBEC—FEDERAL INSPECTION OF MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

Would the Minister tell the house if there have been conversations recently with the Quebec Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mr. Laporte, with regard to the inspection of the books of Quebec municipalities by his departmental inspectors?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I got in touch with the Minister of Municipal Affairs on the point raised in the house, but as regards an investigation, or rather an inspection of the books of municipalities, steps have not yet been taken.

Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question? Could the minister tell the house if the Quebec Minister of Municipal Affairs has any objection to an inspection of the books of Quebec municipalities?

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, no objection has been made to that inspection. As we know, auditing is done through the provincial governments and it is done regularly. In some cases, huge amounts of money were recovered by provincial auditors. The question is whether, in some cases, more thorough examinations should be made. If this is considered necessary, I shall then get in touch with the government authorities.