

Oral Questions

when pickets are there. They are on public property, on the street, and we are optimistic enough to think that the union may be encouraged to withdraw their picket lines from that elevator in that area. Also, some trucks moved out of Montreal early this morning, before 6 a.m.

[Translation]

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Since the producers' association has already applied to the minister responsible for a subsidy to offset additional costs incurred as a result of that dispute, is the minister in a position to assure the House that he would be willing to discharge the additional costs which producers are now compelled to pay to obtain supplies?

[English]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, we have always looked after them in the past in a responsible and reasonable fashion and accepted their requests in the same fashion.

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HARBOURS**HALIFAX—ALLEGED COMMITMENT CONCERNING SHED RENTAL POLICY—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and has to do with a question I asked him yesterday concerning the denial of an undertaking given by the vice-chairman of the National Harbours Board to the mayor of the city of Halifax and other interested people who came to Ottawa to discuss shed rentals in that particular port. Has he had an opportunity to advise himself of the nature of this serious confrontation between the mayor of the city of Halifax and others, and the chairman of the National Harbours Board concerning the denial of the undertaking given by Mr. Guy Beaudet, vice-chairman of the National Harbours Board.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this is extremely difficult for me. I have taken the matter very seriously, and I got in touch with the National Harbours Board. I did not receive the exact confirmation of what the hon. member reports. I am not saying he does not tell the truth, but I think I have taken a faster way. Tomorrow, the chairman of the National Harbours Board, Mr. Taylor, will be in Halifax to meet the mayor to clarify the situation.

[English]

Mr. Forrestall: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I must say I am surprised that there has not been some reaction from the chairman of the National Harbours Board. Would the minister take a personal interest in this matter, because it is quite likely, if the impasse continues tomorrow, that the resignation of the vice-chairman of the National Harbours Board will be called for, a position which I cannot help but support, because somebody has been playing games with the port of Halifax. Would the minister intervene personally in this matter and use his authority to suggest in the strongest possible terms to Mr.

[Mr. Whelan.]

Beaudet and Mr. Taylor that, when they go to Halifax, they should go prepared to talk straight and not with a crooked tongue.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, as soon as Mr. Taylor is back from Halifax and there have been discussions with the mayor, I will be happy to give a more precise answer.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**REQUEST FOR REFERENCE OF REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMISSION TO COMMITTEE**

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the government House leader a question about the report of the Independent Review Commission which was tabled yesterday. Will the government House leader consult with the other House leaders with regard to submitting this report to a committee of this House in connection with proposing the kind of legislation suggested in the first recommendation of the report? I make that proposition because parliament must be vitally concerned with regard to the position of the Auditor General who is the servant of parliament.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the House leader of the opposition will recall that it has been government policy to propose a bill that gives statutory form to the responsibilities of the Auditor General. Therefore, this does accord with government policy. I am not quite sure whether it would be more expeditious to refer this report to a committee or have the government present legislation based on this report for the consideration of the House. In either event, we are in favour of introducing such legislation.

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IMMIGRATION**GRANTING OF LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS BY ORDER IN COUNCIL—REQUEST FOR NAMES OF PERSONS SO TREATED**

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that 18,884 aliens became landed immigrants last year through orders in council, and in view of the fact that regulations imposed by the government now clearly indicate that a prospective immigrant must apply from outside Canada, can the minister indicate whether a practice in which approval of such large numbers is being given only worsens Canada's problems with illegal immigration since illegal immigrants can always hope for an order in council from this government?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that is the case. I respect the hon. member's question and concern. I will be glad to discuss it with him in detail, either privately or when I am before a committee. There is nothing hidden in this practice. It is a discretionary authority vested in the minister. I think in every case there is a