

whether he has received any urgent communications from the United Mine Workers with respect to the meeting held last week with the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, I have received no communication from the mine workers beyond those on which I commented in the house a few days ago.

Mr. MacInnis: Has the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion received any urgent communications? I ask this question today primarily because the urgency of any question cannot be dictated by the presence or absence of any minister in the house.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacInnis: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I have been trying to follow up this very urgent matter with the government and I have asked questions in respect of this matter only to receive off-the-cuff and snide answers from the Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacInnis: I think the situation of the Cape Breton miners which has been imposed by a Crown Corporation deserves the attention of and some answers from this government. After all, it was the Prime Minister's idea to promote a just society.

GRAIN

WHEAT—APPLICATION OF PENALTIES FOR SHIPMENTS OF IMPROPER GRADE

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): I wish to direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. He may already have given an answer to it, and I might have misunderstood him. In his earlier answer the minister mentioned penalties whereby payments for storage of grain shipments of improper grade would not be made. Are these penalties now to apply to the shipments already made, or are they to apply to any shipments that might be made in the future? Have farmers only been given a warning, or will the penalties be imposed on previous shipments? Secondly, can the minister advise the house whether he has any information on the number of carloads of No. 2 Northern now on track or en route to Vancouver?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I do not have the specific information for which the hon. member asks but I shall be glad to obtain it for him.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

MEXICO—APPLICATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION ACT

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development related to the conference recently held with the Indian people in Ottawa. Has the minister taken part in an informal discussion with officials of the government of Mexico concerning the Migratory Birds Convention Act?

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if this is not a question which might well be debated at the time of adjournment.

[*Translation*]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

CONSULTATION WITH TEACHERS OVERSEAS BEFORE CONTRACT CHANGE

Mr. Gaétan-J. Serré (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Defence.

[*English*]

In view of the telegram received this morning from the Ontario Teachers Federation requesting further consultation on terms of agreement covering overseas teachers, will the minister advise the house whether such consultation is under way and, if so, what progress has been made?

Hon. Leo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): I think I should explain to the house that the contract for teachers for the year 1969-70 has already been approved by the Department of National Defence. However I have had a request from members for a consultation in connection with the next contract, and I undertake to have these consultations whenever the time is ripe.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): I would ask the minister whether the changes in the contract were made without consultation with the Canadian Teachers Federation, which has been designated as the national organ for the teachers of Canada. If the answer is in the affirmative, why should the Government of Canada refuse to deal with the federation on questions concerning salary and other terms of teachers' contracts?