

Inquiries of the Ministry

the previous year. Our December exports to the United States were up by nearly 19 per cent over the previous December.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me we are now witnessing an exchange of statistics between the hon. member for Northumberland and the minister. I think this is not the type of question and answer which should be allowed at this time.

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, may I direct to the Minister of Trade and Commerce a supplementary question to the one asked by the hon. member for Northumberland?

Will the minister tell us if the trade increase between Canada and the United States which he mentioned a little earlier is due to the devaluation of the Canadian dollar which the Conservative government put into force in previous years?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Northumberland.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. gentleman's question is out of order.

Mr. Valade: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I want to say you allowed the minister to reply to a question put by the hon. member for Northumberland, and mine is related to that question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have allowed the hon. member to put his question and, with respect, I think his question is not in order. I felt that the original question placed by the hon. member for Northumberland had some aspects which indicated it was not entirely in order, and the response by the minister went beyond the terms of the type of reply that should be made to questions posed at this time.

SHIPPING**ST. LAWRENCE RIVER—ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING RESPECTING SAFETY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): In the absence of the Minister of Transport I would normally direct this question to his parliamentary secretary, but the intervention of that hon. member into the question period

[Mr. Winters.]

the other day made it obvious he does not know any more than the rest of us. I should like, therefore, to direct my question to the Minister without Portfolio, the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George, and ask him whether a telegram has been received today from the representatives of the Canadian Marine Officers Institute and the Seafarers International Union asking specifically for a meeting with the Minister of Transport to talk about safety on the St. Lawrence. If so, what response, if any, has been given? What is to happen with regard to this request?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister without Portfolio): May I point out to the hon. member that the telegram was sent only by the S.I.U. and not by the Dominion Marine Association. In reply to this telegram, I stated that departmental officials and myself would be meeting in Montreal next week, on March 16, with all the interested parties, including the unions and the shipping industry, to begin a series of meetings on marine safety on the lakes and on the St. Lawrence river.

Mr. Churchill: Would those be conferences or meetings?

Mr. Turner: Meetings at the technical and official level with the interested parties.

Mr. Howard: May I be allowed to point out that I did not say the telegram came jointly from the Dominion Marine Association, but rather from the Canadian Marine Officers Institute and the Seafarers International Union? Could I ask the minister whether he is the only minister who will be in attendance at this meeting or whether the Minister of Transport will be there as well?

Mr. Turner: I will be the only minister present at this particular meeting, but of course the Minister of Transport will be fully aware of what is happening.

HIGHWAY SAFETY**REQUEST FOR MANDATORY GOVERNMENT SPECIFICATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi): Last week, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister said the government would soon be in a position to reply to my question relating to the imposition of mandatory government specifications for safety features in Canadian motor vehicles unless the industry acted voluntarily in this field. I should like to ask the Minister of Industry if he is yet able to reply to this question, and whether he can