

LABOUR CONDITIONS

LAY-OFFS BY GENERAL INSTRUMENTS CORPORATION, SYDNEY, N.S.—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the vast work that is being done by his department in the Atlantic provinces and the expertise that is allegedly being shown by his staff, and in view of the fact that another 200 employees have been laid off by General Instruments Corporation of Sydney, manufacturers of electronic components, what is he prepared to do in respect of the provision of his officers to this corporation and to the workers who have been laid off to assist them in getting back to work?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I am sorry to say, Mr. Speaker, that I am not familiar with that particular case. I presume that the services of different departments of the federal government have already been offered or used, but I will look into this immediately.

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PUBLIC WORKS

NORTHUMBERLAND CAUSEWAY—RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION NOT TO PROCEED

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the diligent and conscientious Minister of Public Works. In light of his recent statement exalting the virtues of a permanent Northumberland causeway, can he advise whether he and his colleagues are now reconsidering the government's decision to repudiate its commitment to go ahead with that important project?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I have some knowledge of an initiative being taken by the province of Prince Edward Island. I have indicated to my people that I would like them to find out for me what success Prince Edward Island is having in encouraging private enterprise in that area. We would like to know what they have in mind. It is our intention to enter into discussion with the province as soon as possible.

Mr. Macquarrie: Mr. Speaker, I might ask the minister whether he does not consider that the resources of the government of Canada are a little more ample than those of Prince Edward Island?

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POLLUTION

SPRINGHILL, N.S.—INVESTIGATION OF SLAG DUMP FIRE

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Is he in a position to answer a question I posed earlier this week regarding the slag dump fire at Springhill?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asked a question about the Springhill slag dump fire. I had an inquiry made into the matter and I find that the inquiry by the officials of my department is not yet complete. It is the intention at the present time that this is not to be a public inquiry and that the results of the inquiry will not be made a public document but will be made known to the Nova Scotia government.

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HEALTH

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION RESPECTING CIGARETTE ADVERTISING

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I want to ask the Government House Leader, having in mind the statement made a few days ago by his colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, to the effect that consideration is being given to the introduction of legislation in the field of cigarette advertising and disease. Will such legislation be placed before us prior to the Easter recess?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give a definite assurance that such legislation will be before the House before Easter. It will depend on the progress made on present legislation and the priorities that have been established.

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YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

SUGGESTED WITHDRAWAL OF LEGISLATION

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Government House Leader. In view of his contribution before the recess in which he exercised good judgment and also protected the President of the Treasury Board by withdrawing the legislation concerning the Auditor General, I wonder whether he would exercise the same good judgment and protect the young Solicitor General by withdrawing the Young Offenders Bill?

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

REPORT ON ROLE OF FORCES IN CIVIL RIOTS AND EMERGENCIES

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Is a formal report being commissioned by the government on the use of the army and its role in civil riots and emergencies such as the emergency that occurred recently so as to have an assessment of its use in the future in similar situations?