

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated some months ago, I had recommended to the Department of Justice that the whole question of minimum wages in CNR hotels be subjected, if necessary, to court action. In the interval there was a test case before the courts in the province of Alberta. I believe the recommendation of the Department of Justice was that we should wait for the results in that particular case, and the Minister of Justice has indicated to me that he would get more concrete information on that case some time later this week.

DISPUTE BETWEEN RAILWAYS AND LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS—PARTICIPATION OF MINISTER AND DEPARTMENTAL MEDIATORS IN NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I agree with the minister about the importance of not interfering with the negotiations at this time, but can he inform the House, in respect of the crucial negotiations that are to start today or tomorrow, whether he or his chief mediators or both intend to take an active part to make sure the negotiations continue until a settlement is reached?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Both the industry specialists, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Gibbons, are on the scene and have already taken an active part over the weekend to see that direct negotiations are resumed tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for York South and the hon. member for Athabasca on supplementaries and then go on to another subject.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to press the minister unduly but I know a little about this kind of negotiation and so I ask him if he himself would enter the picture at this stage, which is obviously crucial to the settlement of the dispute, not necessarily tomorrow but some time during the negotiations this week?

Mr. Mackasey: If at all necessary I would be glad to do so, Mr. Speaker.

EFFECT OF RAILWAY WORK STOPPAGE ON TRANSPORTATION OF GRAIN

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. Can he indicate whether the transportation of grain is being interfered with by this work stoppage, and whether the government is considering alternative methods to transport grain in order to ensure that our wheat markets are not interfered with?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, of course the movement of grain from the Prairies to Vancouver is essentially a railroad operation and so it is interfered with, of course, by anything that interferes with the complete operation of the railroads. No other system of transportation could be considered feasible at this stage.

[Mr. McGrath.]

NATIONAL SECURITY

PUBLICATION OF BOOK BY SECRETARY OF STATE ON QUEBEC CRISIS—PRIOR EXAMINATION BY PRIME MINISTER

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister to clarify the position that he explained on March 25 in connection with the extraordinary book written by the Secretary of State when the Prime Minister was asked what course was followed in respect of written statements or speeches. Was there any examination of this book made in advance by the Prime Minister himself to ascertain whether or not constitutional practice was being subverted in any way?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, what I explained last week was that before ministers made any statements on important policy questions they were to follow a practice which was established well before my time—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Not in my time.

Mr. Trudeau: —in the Prime Minister's office, a practice which consisted of letting the Prime Minister's office know what those statements were going to be. In some cases I have looked at them when they were drawn to my attention; in other cases I did not when I was told there was no need to look at a statement in detail before it was made.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I must make a reference to the Prime Minister's allegation about other Prime Ministers. That rule I had not heard of until the Prime Minister enunciated it the other day. Now I ask him this: does he personally check these speeches in advance to examine their content in this regard?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Then I have another question. In the blues for the 25th these words appear:

Ministers have made speeches on all these subjects.

That is, on matters of government policy.

It is my practice to check them for content.

That was the statement made by the Prime Minister. I ask him why was the change made in *Hansard* to read as follows:

It is my practice to try to ensure, before they are delivered, that someone checks them for content.

Why was this change made in what was said in the House by the Prime Minister so as to report in *Hansard* something that he did not say?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, my memory of what I said is that I said that someone checked them for content. If the blues carry any different statement, I will have the blues looked into and I will also see if there is a tape of this statement. I am rather certain that I said they were checked for content by someone, because at no time have I ever pretended I could read in advance all the speeches that are made by ministers in my cabinet.