

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister. Is it the intention of the government to remove the Canadian coat of arms from mail boxes, mail bags or other places where it is now displayed in the postal department?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we will have a chance to discuss this matter shortly, I hope.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Haven't you decided yet?

INDIAN AFFAIRS

RICHIBUCTO, N.B.—DEFENCE OF INDIANS CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL FISHING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of—I was going to say "Northern Affairs" because I cannot think offhand of the name of his new portfolio.

An hon. Member: Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Mr. Howard: Yes, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the fact that a number of Indian people near Richibucto, New Brunswick, have had fishing nets seized and have been charged with fishing illegally, in view of the fact that the fisheries department has retained a lawyer to prosecute these people, and in view of the fact that they claim the right to fish by virtue of a treaty of 1774, will the minister be prepared to provide legal counsel for these people so that their rights may be fully protected?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt that this is the type of question that can be asked at this time. I suggest that the hon. member might wish to make representations directly to the minister.

Mr. Howard: May I speak to the matter of urgency, Mr. Speaker? The court case relating to the charges is imminent, and the people are without funds to provide legal counsel. It is on the basis of the urgency of the decision by the government that I ask the question at this time.

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): It is intended that financial assistance will be offered to ensure that the Indian people get proper representation when they appear in court. I might say that this is a continuing process in my department, to afford the court

[Mr. Pugh.]

of appeal an opportunity to set out the boundaries of responsibility in respect of both fishing and hunting rights of the Indian people, either under treaties or other provisions that are set out separately for them.

[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS

QUEBEC—WITHDRAWAL OF CNTU FROM LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Labour.

Following the threat of the CNTU to withdraw from the Canadian Council of Labour Relations and from all other federal organizations, can the minister tell the house whether the departmental committee set up seven or eight months ago is ready to make a decision about the changes to be made in the definition of negotiating unit? If so, could he make this decision known to the house?

Mr. Speaker: This question should be put on the order paper.

Mr. Allard: I should like to discuss the matter at ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put on the same subject a supplementary question which will be in order. Following the decision—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I take the liberty of reminding the hon. member that the question put by the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard) was ruled out of order; I suppose the question of the member for Lapointe is different.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I think that my question could be accepted on account of its importance. I could put it in accordance with standing orders, because it is directly related to the question of the hon. member for Sherbrooke.

Since the Canadian Council of Labour Relations has decided to prevent workers of the Angus Company in Montreal from choosing their union freely, does the Minister of Labour intend to introduce in the house shortly new legislation in order to grant union freedom in Canada?