

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Nicholson: I cannot give a definite answer to that question at this time. I do not wish to offer too much encouragement either, because I find that in the statement which was made on Friday last, at the opening of the motion, the longshoremen also said "It may be said we could have attended in court to give reasons. If we had, we would have been recognizing the right of employers to ask for mandatory orders..." With all due respect, surely the law is for the court to interpret, not the Minister of Labour. I would prefer not to give a further answer until I have the reasons of the learned judge stating his reaction toward this particular statement.

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Bearing in mind the troubled industrial relations situation in British Columbia, will the minister do his best to expedite his consideration of this matter?

Mr. Nicholson: I would be very glad to do so.

[Translation]

SHIPPING**OBSTRUCTIONS PLACED IN NAVIGABLE
WATERS BY PULP AND PAPER
COMPANIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Minister of Transport?

It is an important and urgent question, in view of the fact that the shipping period is now in full swing. Can the minister tell us whether his department is taking any special steps to prevent pulp and paper companies from dumping logs and pulpwood into navigable rivers, canals and waterways?

[English]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I will take this important question under immediate consideration and give an answer as soon as possible.

HOUSING**FORT NELSON, B.C.—REPORTED FAILURE OF
C.M.H.C. TO PARTICIPATE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Bert Leboe (Cariboo): My question is directed to the Minister of Labour in his capacity as minister responsible for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Has the minister's attention been drawn to a scathing editorial in the *Fort Nelson News* concerning

[Mr. Lewis.]

the lack of participation by Central Mortgage and Housing in construction activities in Fort Nelson? This is an important matter, and I hope the minister will have something to say in connection with this article.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest this question be placed on the order paper, a course which might give the minister an opportunity to take notice of the matter mentioned by the hon. member.

Mr. Leboe: With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, this question is urgent and I think it should be answered now. I do not ask questions in this house very often, as you know. I am asking this one because the subject is urgent.

Mr. Speaker: Since the hon. member for Cariboo has asked the question I would be pleased to draw the conclusion that the matter is urgent.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): I am glad Your Honour has seen fit to permit this question. This was a disturbing editorial, and one which shows how far newspapers can go off the beam, to use a colloquialism, if they do not know the real facts. This was a critical editorial stating that no National Housing Act loans had been made in the town of Fort Nelson by the national housing corporation during recent years. I should like to place on record at the earliest possible date that, contrary to the indications in the editorial, we have not had a single application for a loan under the National Housing Act from Fort Nelson for several years. Furthermore, our branch manager visited Fort Nelson in November last, at which time municipal officials indicated there was a housing slump and told him there would be no N.H.A. housing requirements. I had a conversation on these lines not too long ago with the hon. member for Cariboo confirming this, so I am sure the editorial was as much news to him as it was to me.

Our manager in Prince George has advised the editor that if indeed there are people requiring N.H.A. loans and needing information about the act, he will be glad to visit and discuss the matter with them.

TRADE**WHEAT—TERMS OF NEW AGREEMENT
WITH RUSSIA**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): I would direct a question to the Minister of