

Inquiries of the Ministry

was attended by at least one official of the Department of Labour, the industry expressed certain views about the manpower needs of the mining industry. Subsequently at the meeting information was given out that led to the objection of the Steel Workers. The meeting was requested by the Metal Mining Association. We are quite happy to meet with the United Steel Workers at any time to discuss questions. As a matter of fact, just this week I had a meeting with representatives of the Steel Workers on another matter, and would be glad to discuss manpower needs with the organization at any time.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question with respect to the first chapter of the book of answers given by the Minister. Would the oldest metalliferous mining union in Canada, the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, also receive an invitation to attend this meeting or meet the Minister on this subject?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The necessity of meeting with this particular union is somewhat lessened by the frequent representations made on its behalf by my Parliamentary Secretary, a former member of that union.

Mr. Nielsen: Oh, boy.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. The Minister did not answer the question I asked, which was, did the United Steel Workers of America ask to sit in on the meetings with regard to this specific problem of manpower needs in the metal industries? If they did, did they get a favourable answer? In view of the answer given by the Minister I just want to quote one line from an answer he gave on April 6 to this very question, when he said:

If they wish to participate and express their views, we will be delighted to co-operate with them.

That was more than a month ago. What has happened?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge no meetings have taken place since this particular question was asked.

Mr. Orlikow: Have they asked?

Mr. MacEachen: The Steel Workers have expressed their views about this particular meeting to which I have already referred and about which I think a misunderstanding developed, because it was not a meeting that

[Mr. MacEachen.]

had been requested by the Government to discuss manpower policy with the employers to the exclusion of the union; it was an interview requested by the Mining Association and attended by Government officials.

SOCIAL INSURANCE**PROSECUTIONS RESPECTING FAILURE TO OBTAIN NUMBERS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I should like to reply to a question asked by the hon. Member for Red Deer, followed by a question from the hon. Member for Quebec-Montmorency, with respect to social insurance numbers.

The Ontario Teachers' Federation have expressed no views formally to the Commission with respect to this project, but a number of Ontario teachers have submitted application forms to acquire social insurance numbers. No prosecutions have been launched against teachers or school boards for their failure to seek numbers, because such individuals are not covered by unemployment insurance at the time of registration and accordingly would not be obliged to register except on a voluntary basis.

The case referred to by my hon. friends involved the failure of an employer to register his employees, as is required under the Unemployment Insurance Act. For that reason court proceedings have been recommended by the Department of Justice.

[Translation]

Mr. Guy Marcoux (Quebec-Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister as regards the second of the answers he just gave. Yesterday he was also asked whether it was true that the Department of Labour had brought no charge other than the one against Canada Week Limited.

[Text]

Mr. MacEachen: I think that is correct, Mr. Speaker, because to my knowledge no other employers have failed to comply with the law.

LABOUR RELATIONS**VICTORIA, B.C.—RESTRICTION ON EMPLOYMENT ON AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I should like to answer a question asked recently by the hon. Member for Esquimalt-Saanich with respect to a labour