

Combines Investigation Act

Does the Canadian government consider trading goods with Brazil or other South American countries which are anxious to develop such an international trade policy?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I shall take the hon. member's question as notice and answer it tomorrow.

(Text):

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Kootenay East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour in view of the rising unemployment in many local areas. Can the minister give the house a progress report on the work of the Gill committee that was set up to investigate the unemployment insurance fund?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the only sector in which there has been a rise in unemployment in recent days—I know the hon. member has been out of touch with Canada in the past few weeks—has been in the farm labour sector. The Gill committee report is now being translated into French and, as I told the hon. member for Essex East, I am extremely anxious, as he is and as the hon. member is now upon his return, to have the translation completed so that we can receive the report.

Mr. Byrne: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I should like to inform the minister that I have been quite in touch with Canada and that I have been looking into a very serious matter that the Department of Transport—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Byrne:—should be attending to at this moment and which has to do—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would also beg the indulgence of the hon. member that when the Chair stands on a point of order the hon. member will cede the floor and not continue to make his remarks.

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT AND CRIMINAL CODE

EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM RESPECTING B.C. FISHING INDUSTRY

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Justice) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-49, to amend an act to amend the Combines Investigation Act and the Criminal Code.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion? Carried.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, surely the minister had something to say, and was rising.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would draw to the attention of the hon. member that the Chair can only judge by what is happening, and if the minister or no one else rises to speak then the Chair must put the motion.

Mr. Nicholson: With respect, Mr. Speaker, I was on my feet.

Mr. Pickersgill: With the greatest respect, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I see now that the hon. member for Vancouver Centre is on his feet and this points up a matter to which I drew the attention of hon. members previously and with regard to which I crave their indulgence. When the Chair rises to put a motion members should resume their seats, because it is quite contrary to the rules to have anyone standing or moving about when a motion is being put. This resulted in inconvenience to an hon. member the other day and has now resulted in further inconvenience to another hon. member. I can assure you it is quite impossible to tell whether an hon. member is standing up to go out of the chamber or to speak unless, of course—and I make this suggestion—he calls out "Mr. Speaker". The hon. member for Vancouver Centre. I am sorry; I will call on the minister.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to extend for an additional year, to December 31, 1963, the moratorium relating to the application of the anti-combines legislation to certain arrangements between fishermen and fish processors in British Columbia.

This provision was first made in 1959. At that time a statement of evidence had been submitted by the director under the Combines Investigation Act to the restrictive trade practices commission and to various fish packing companies, associations and individuals, alleging that certain arrangements and activities in the British Columbia fishing industry had been in violation of the provisions of the anti-combines legislation. Because of the doubt thus cast upon the agreements relating to the prices and other conditions under which raw fish is supplied to the processing companies, the companies declined in 1959 to negotiate prices with the fishermen's union as they had done in earlier years, and it appeared that a strike would ensue with the possible result that the British Columbia salmon catch, and possibly that of other species, would be lost to the Canadian fishing industry.