

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will be recognized for a last supplementary.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): I want to ask the minister why he is evading the question.

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HARBOURS

HAMILTON—CONFLICT OF INTEREST OF PORT DIRECTORS—LAND SWAP DEALS—POSITION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): I was taken by surprise, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Transport. I believe the minister is aware of the problems that exist in the city of Hamilton in so far as the city of Hamilton and the Hamilton Harbour Commission are concerned. First, there is the conflict of interest of the port directors and, second, the problem of land swap deals between the Hamilton Harbour Commissioners, Stelco and Dominion Foundaries and Steel. Is the minister in a position to advise the House soon by way of a statement as to his interest and jurisdiction in these two particular controversial problems in order that we can get the thinking of the federal government with regard to these very two important matters that are faced by the city of Hamilton and the citizens of the city of Hamilton at the present time?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I might be able to give the answer to the hon. member now, Mr. Speaker. In so far as the conflict of interest issue is concerned, this has no relationship in so far as the federal government is concerned. He is an appointee of the harbour commission and, as such, must be dealt with by the harbour commission. In so far as the so-called land swap is concerned, the only action that would be required by us is approval of an order in council if all of the other parties agreed and the matter was resolved to the point where an order in council was submitted to us. I can advise the hon. member that no such request for an order in council has been received to date.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary question. In view of the fact the Hamilton Harbour Commissioners are not particularly concerned about the use of the land surrounding the harbour, is it the intention of the minister to involve himself with the city of Hamilton vis-à-vis this particular incident before making any decision when it comes to land swaps between the Hamilton Harbour Commissioners and any other industry in the city of Hamilton?

Mr. Jamieson: As I said a moment ago, Mr. Speaker, the question is to some extent hypothetical until such time as the request for an order in council comes forward. In the meantime, we received representations both pro and con regarding this proposal. I will be pleased to take these into account if and when some request for federal action is brought forward, but there has been none as yet.

[Mr. Howard (Skeena).]

[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

INQUIRY RESPECTING EXEMPTION OF EMPLOYEES OF SCHOOL BOARDS AND HOSPITALS

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Labour.

Since the new regulations under the Unemployment Insurance Act will come into force in a few days, can the Minister of Labour say whether the personnel employed by school boards and hospitals in the province of Quebec will or will not be subject to them?

[English]

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, those employed by the school boards or school commissions of the province of Quebec, including school teachers, and those employed in hospitals in the province of Quebec will be treated precisely as these classes of employees are in other provinces and will be covered by the new Unemployment Insurance Act come January 1.

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AGRICULTURE

POSITION OF MARITIME USERS OF WESTERN FEED GRAIN—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. What action is his department taking to meet alleged difficulties of users of western feed grain in the Atlantic provinces who allege that their competitive position is being eroded because the basic price paid for the grain which they receive is higher in most cases than similar grain used for feeding in western Canada and for export?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, this question has been brought to my attention by a number of producer groups, not only in the Atlantic provinces, but in the province of Quebec as well. I can advise the hon. member that the Canada Grains Council undertook a survey of this whole matter some five weeks ago, I believe. They require a terminal period of about two months before they will be completing the program. We will be looking at those findings along with other suggested solutions to satisfy this demand.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member in a moment if he will resume his seat. I appreciate that the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East also has a supplementary. Hon. members should appreciate that we will soon be running short of time and we will have to reduce the number of supplementaries as much as possible.

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TRANSPORT

INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATES ON IMPORTED FEEDS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): In view of the answer just given by the Minister of Agriculture, I wish to