

Inquiries of the Ministry

Industry, Trade and Commerce inasmuch as the Bureau of Statistics falls within his jurisdiction. Would the minister say what studies, if any, have been made to determine why the birth rate last year in the province of Quebec was the lowest in Canada while that in Newfoundland, a neighbouring province, was the highest?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is a question for the late show.

TRANSPORT**QUEBEC NORTH SHORE AND LABRADOR RAILWAY—MOVEMENT OF FUEL TO WABUSH AND LABRADOR CITY**

Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Will the government confirm that an order has been issued by the Canadian Transport Commission to the Quebec North Shore and Labrador Railway to resume transportation of fuel to Wabush and Labrador City?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to confirm that that is the case.

Mr. Peddle: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will this order include both domestic and automobile fuels? Will it also include automobiles so that residents of the area can get out of there on vacation? Also, does it include shipments consigned to Churchill Falls?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, on the first part of the question, so far as I am aware it involves all forms of fuel. Automobiles were not included in the representations made to me directly. Whether the C.T.C. has included them I do not know, but I expect not. Also, the shipments do not include consignments to Churchill Falls.

LABOUR RELATIONS**CANADIAN PACIFIC AIRLINES DISPUTE—REQUEST FOR REPORT**

Mr. D. W. Groos (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Since it is not the Minister of Labour's turn to be in the house, has the Acting Prime Minister anything to report on the Canadian Pacific Airlines dispute? I am referring to the strike that was to be called at ten o'clock this morning.

[Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway).]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say I was informed just a few minutes ago that a strike has been averted and that an agreement has been signed which, of course, is subject to ratification.

An hon. Member: You could have listened to the radio.

CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY**"MANHATTAN" PROJECT—LACK OF CANADIAN NEWSMEN ON SHIP**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will he say whether he has investigated why Canadian journalists are not being allowed to join United States newsmen aboard the oil tanker *Manhattan* which is to sail through Canadian waters under Canadian coastguard escort next month?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have inquired into this matter. I understand Canadian newsmen are to be given the opportunity of being there on that occasion on Canadian vessels. I think they will be able to report fully.

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister not use his good offices to bring pressure to bear on the United States authorities so that Canadian newsmen may be allowed to be present on the tanker *Manhattan* itself?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker. I think it is better that Canadian newsmen should go on Canadian vessels.

TRADE**WHEAT—AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION—BALANCE OF COMMITMENT**

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Have there been any discussions between Canada and the Soviet Union recently with respect to the wheat agreement which is to expire at the end of this month? If so, or even if there have been no discussions, are there any indications that the Soviet Union will be taking the balance of its commitment? Is there any possibility that the terms of that agreement may be extended?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, contact