

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

INDUSTRY**AUTOMOBILE PARTS—REMOVAL OF TAX ON PRODUCTION MACHINERY**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): My question, Mr. Speaker, is addressed to the Minister of Finance. Has the minister received representations from the automobile industry to now remove the sales tax on production machinery as announced by him in his budget to be effective for April 1, 1967, so the automobile parts industry in Canada may be in a position to better compete with its counterparts in the United States? If so, what is the decision in this regard?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I may confirm that I have had such representations. They are under consideration.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): May I address a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry. Is it a fact that the minister encouraged these manufacturers to go ahead and buy this machinery?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether the question as asked can be put at this time.

TRANSPORT**YARMOUTH, N.S.—DELAY IN DOCKING OF FERRY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): My question is for the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware that on Saturday, March 19, the Canadian National ferry Bluenose arrived at the mouth of Yarmouth harbour at 4 p.m. then turned around and went to sea until eight o'clock the next morning, much to the inconvenience of the passengers. Would the minister investigate the reason for this strange behaviour on the part of this government vessel?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**MOVEMENT OF SKILLED WORKERS FROM CANADA TO U.S.**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I can say in a general way that it would be our intention to have in the terms of reference authority for the commission to look into security procedures, both in regard to their adequacy for the protection of national security and their relation to the rights and freedoms of the individual. I should think any commission looking into this aspect of the matter would wish to look into cases in the past to see if there is an example of one or other of these things.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a related question. May I ask the Prime Minister whether the government will table in the house today or at the earliest opportunity prior to the Easter recess the transcript of the press conference held by the Minister of Justice on March 10, which we have been assured will be made available as one of the matters before the royal commission. I think it would be helpful and important if it might be tabled in the house.

Mr. Pearson: I will certainly be very glad to look into that, Mr. Speaker. The transcript of the press conference was, of course, attached to the order in council to be sent on to the commission.

[Translation]

CROWN CORPORATIONS**SUGGESTED AUDITING OF BOOKS BY AUDITOR GENERAL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Prime Minister.

According to the answer to my question No. 137, it cost over \$5 million to the Canadian people to audit the books of crown corporations which are not required to be audited by the Auditor General of Canada.

Does the government intend to correct this situation by entrusting the Auditor General with such auditing?

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest to the hon. member that he put this question on the order paper?

Mr. Caouette: It has been put on the order paper, and that is why I should like to get an answer.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member just said that he had received an answer and that he was not satisfied. He is asking a new question which does not seem so urgent, in my opinion, that it could not easily be placed on the order paper.