

Inquiries of the Ministry

upon after consultation with the unions concerned, or was it arrived at without such consultation?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I thought I had made it clear that the bargaining representatives of one of the four unions involved had joined with the two railways in a request that the mediator be given an extension. A settlement having been agreed upon in principle with one group representing 22,000 workers, and another group representing approximately the same number having urged that mediation should continue, with the possibility of the resumption of negotiations with one or perhaps both of the other two groups, the government took full responsibility at the request of just one union group, of the railways and the mediator.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I should like to ask the minister whether he will give consideration to another extension when this period has expired, if the mediation has not resulted in a settlement?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have the distinct impression that this is a hypothetical question.

HOUSING**C.M.H.C.—POLICY IN APPOINTMENT OF LAWYERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour in his capacity as the minister answering for C.M.H.C. He mentioned a few moments ago that a certain policy with regard to C.M.H.C. has not changed. I should like to ask whether the policy with regard to the appointment of lawyers acting on behalf of C.M.H.C. has changed.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I think we have followed the course that was followed by the government of the right hon. Leader of the Opposition and other governments.

Mr. Winkler: Not quite.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Grant Deachman (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Is it true, as suggested in a morning news column, that the minister now considers the bagpipes to be an ill wind that no one blows good?

[Mr. Orlikow.]

AGRICULTURE**SUGAR BEETS—INTERIM PAYMENT ON 1966 CROP**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent (Ont.)): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture based upon his statement this morning regarding sugar beets. The minister stated that an interim payment has been approved for the 1966 crop. Can he indicate at this time the amount of the interim payment, and when it is expected that this payment will be made?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): We are not prepared to indicate that today, Mr. Speaker; but I will take the question as notice and give the hon. member an answer as soon as possible.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**VANCOUVER B.C.—ARRESTS BY U.S. SERVICE POLICE**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, is the Solicitor General, after the passage of a week, now able to furnish the house with information secured from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as to whether United States police officers are operating in Canada in search of United States draft dodgers, without being accompanied by members of the mounted police?

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not able to respond earlier to the right hon. gentleman's question. I must advise the house that, notwithstanding an extensive investigation in the city of Vancouver, the results have proved inconclusive. The R.C.M.P. interviewed the people who made the report, but no one was able to confirm as a fact that any members of the United States authorities have been in the city of Vancouver. We are now continuing the investigation elsewhere.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister knows, of course, that one of the sources was an article in the Wasserman column, and he stated that this was being done. Was there any communication with the F.B.I. in Washington, to ascertain whether any members of their forces are operating in Canada? This is something that certainly should not take place. It would be very simple to find out whether it has taken place, by communicating with Washington and asking them: Are any of your officers snooping about in Canada?