

Inquiries of the Ministry

ernment of Canada has apparently accepted it, how do they propose to persuade those concerned that the 6 per cent guideline should be followed when the Minister of Labour has been involved with negotiations at a substantially higher level?

Mr. Trudeau: I gladly ask the Minister of Labour to answer that question.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have great respect for the Leader of the Opposition. I do not think he would want to mislead the House, even unintentionally. If he will read yesterday's *Hansard*, he will see that the settlement of the strike in the towboat industry was arrived at independently of the government and the Minister of Labour. I think the settlement is fair, in view of the fact that it represents the unanimous feelings of the conciliation board which was set up to settle the strike in the towboat industry and taking into consideration the existing salaries before the collective agreement was signed, as well as productivity and other factors. I made it very clear in my statement yesterday and I take this opportunity today to say, with a degree of satisfaction, that in the two years I have been Minister of Labour on not one occasion have I either persuaded or abnormally influenced either side to make settlements.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I wonder whether we are not now entering the field of debate. I point out to hon. members that we are running short of time.

Mr. Stanfield: With respect, Mr. Speaker, this is a very important matter. I wish to direct one further question to the Minister of Labour. I do not think I misinterpreted what he said. I simply ask him how he expects postal and other employees to accept a guideline of 6 per cent in the circumstances announced by the minister yesterday?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I again suggest to the minister and the Leader of the Opposition that we are entering the field of debate and argument. Although I appreciate the matter is very important, I suggest we go on to another subject.

ENERGY**RELAXATION OF U.S. IMPORT CONTROLS ON CANADIAN OIL—RELATIONSHIP TO EXPORTS OF CANADIAN GAS**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I direct my question to the Minister [Mr. Stanfield.]

of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has the minister received any information from the government of the United States that the latter intends to relax controls on the import of Canadian oil into the American market? If he has any information, will he tell the House what the new quotas are likely to be and whether this relaxation is in any way related to an arrangement between the two governments regarding the export of Canadian natural gas?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I am not officially aware of any such relaxation, Mr. Speaker, although I have read rumours in the press that there might be a relaxation. We have not had any official notification of any relaxation.

With regard to the latter half of the hon. member's question, there is certainly no agreement that any relaxation must be contingent upon a greater quantity of Canadian gas being made available. The decision on whether there is a surplus of Canadian gas is made by the National Energy Board. The government cannot make such an agreement. I have accentuated in several speeches that the wider the oil market, the more exploration will take place and the greater the likelihood of more gas being found.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): In view of the fact that American companies now have applications before the National Energy Board for the export of 9½ trillion cubic feet of Canadian gas to the United States, and in view of the fact the final decision will come to the cabinet in the form of recommendations by the National Energy Board, I ask the minister whether he will assure the House that the government will not approve any such export until such time as the matter has been placed before Parliament?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, if I made such an undertaking I would be interfering with a statute of this House. There is a statute which set up the National Energy Board as the decision-making authority in this regard. When they sit on these hearings they do so in a judicial capacity. At no time do I interfere in their deliberations. Their recommendations will be made to and determined by cabinet in the normal course of business.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION**DELIVERY OF PENSION AND OTHER CHEQUES BY SPECIAL MESSENGERS**

Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent): I wish to direct a question to the Postmaster