

*Inquiries of the Ministry*PULP AND PAPER—SUGGESTED MISSION TO ASSESS
WORLD MARKET CONDITIONS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, is the minister prepared to send a mission abroad to examine world market conditions for Canadian paper products, especially with a view to assessing the market for Canadian newsprint? While he is composing this mission, perhaps he might engage the assistance of the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings who was so successful in this field.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): In respect of the last part of the question, Mr. Speaker, last night I did recognize during my speech the good work of my hon. friend when he was the minister.

Mr. Hees: All is forgiven.

Mr. Pepin: Thank you very much. I always take with a smile the remarks the hon. member makes about me and I hope he does the same in the future. Now I have forgotten the question.

An hon. Member: That's not a compliment.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the sort of thing recommended by the hon. member is already taking place. We send missions going abroad. A few days ago a German mission came to Canada to look at the possibility of trade in respect of newsprint and other forest products. The government of Newfoundland recently gave us some advice in this respect, and we are trying to accommodate them with some—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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AGRICULTURE

DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING SPARE PARTS FOR
IMPORTED RUSSIAN TRACTORS—ALTERNATIVE SOURCE
OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he is now in a position to answer the question posed yesterday by the hon. member for Kent-Essex regarding the availability of spare parts for tractors of Russian manufacture purchased by some Canadians?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I made inquiries and have been advised that, notwithstanding the difficulties of the distributor, there is an ample supply of parts available for these tractors. If anyone who requires them would get in touch with my office I can provide them with phone numbers in Montreal so they can have immediate access to these parts.

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• (11:50 a.m.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SUGGESTED INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, if the Prime Minister were here I would be

[Mr. Speaker.]

putting this question to him, but perhaps it is even more appropriate that I put it to the Acting Prime Minister in his capacity as President of the Treasury Board.

In view of the action of the government in appointing 27 parliamentary secretaries, the largest number in history, and in view of the large staffs that are available to ministers in their office establishments, is the government also considering increasing the assistance available to private Members of Parliament in all parties to enable them to cope with the ever-increasing workload?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): I think we did examine this particular problem briefly during the discussion of the bill under which these parliamentary secretaries were appointed. The conclusion was reached then that perhaps the balance was not too inappropriate but that certainly some time in the future it should be subject to review.

[Later]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister if, in his capacity as a member of the Internal Economy Commission, he would raise in that body the whole question of providing adequate assistance to Members of Parliament? I am referring to private members in all parties.

Mr. Drury: I will be glad to do that, Mr. Speaker.

SALARY INCREASES FOR MEMBERS OF PARTY
RESEARCH STAFFS

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): While this discussion is going on, may I ask what the attitude of the government is to the fact that the research staffs supplied to all parties are on a fixed budget and therefore the staffs are not entitled to any of the increments that other employees of the House receive? How is this problem to be solved?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): I think this is perhaps rather more a question for the House. However, if I may venture an opinion, while the budget for research is a stipulated amount there is no such restriction on the movement within that budget of individual salaries.

Mr. Fairweather: This is a semantic argument on the part of the minister. Is it not true that the amounts supplied to the research people have not increased and therefore those employed at the beginning of the program have not participated in the increments which everybody else in this establishment has received?

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SHIPPING

EFFECT OF UNITED STATES EAST COAST
LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE ON CANADIAN PORTS

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether he has any up to date information on the United States