Inquiries of the Ministry

[*Translation*]

AGRICULTURE

EGGS—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PROTECT CANADIAN PRODUCER FROM IMPORTS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, but in his absence, perhaps the Minister of Agriculture could answer it.

Since there is a joint and firmly established plan among egg producers in Quebec for the marketing of that product and since those people are having a hard time of it due to the importation of eggs, could the minister tell us whether the government has taken or will soon take steps to prevent the importation of eggs and to protect our Canadian producers?

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if the hon. member would not agree with me that this important question could profitably be discussed at the time of adjournment this evening.

Mr. Lambert: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

LABOUR RELATIONS

B.C. TELEPHONE STRIKE—REQUEST FOR FEDERAL INTERVENTION

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour about the strike of telephone workers in British Columbia which has been going on for some time. Since Mr. J. Ernest Richardson, the president and chief executive officer of British Columbia Telephone Company, has refused to meet the officers of the union may I ask the minister if he intends to intervene in the strike in an endeavour to bring both parties together, so that free collective bargaining may take place.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the strike of the British Columbia Telephone Company is unfortunate. The hon. member knows that the services of the Department of Labour are available to both sides. There has been no request from the union for any assistance by the Department of Labour in a mediation role. Until one side or the other asks for such assistance the Department of Labour does not intend to interfere in a legitimate strike.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the chief executive officer of the British Columbia Telephone Company will not meet the officers of the union, does the minister not consider it incumbent on his department at least to bring the parties together in an endeavour to have them take up the process of collective bargaining?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, the union went on strike of its own volition. It had the right to go on strike, just as the company had the right to lock workers out when legal delays expired after certain reports were tabled. If the union feels that Mr. Richardson's attitude is unfair, they can ask for the assistance of the Department of Labour. They need only to ask for it and we will then review the matter and make whatever contacts are needed with the company. In the meantime, until we are requested by either one side or the other to intervene, we have no intention of intervening.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If the union were to ask the minister to try to bring the parties together, would he be willing to undertake this assignment?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This further supplementary is hypothetical.

[*Translation*]

HARBOURS

CHANDLER (P.Q.)—INQUIRY AS TO WHARF CONSTRUCTION

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works.

Since a member of the Liberal caucus has said that the people from the Gaspé peninsula are about to rebel because the federal government failed to keep its promise to build a new wharf in Chandler, will the minister now undertake to erect a new wharf as first promised?

Mr. Speaker: I call the hon. member's attention to the fact that his question, as put, is out of order because it deals with a statement made outside the house.

[*English*]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS IN WESTERN CANADA

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Since