

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

non-success of these non-conversations, may I ask if the minister is considering asking the Minister of Labour now to bail him out?

**Mr. Kierans:** Mr. Speaker, I think I could explain it this way, that the Minister of Labour has a conciliatory role between employees and employers and he is always prepared to carry out that function.

[Translation]

**Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether he has officially or unofficially intervened in that conflict and if he can give us some information in that connection.

[English]

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I think I should state in reply that I fully support the Postmaster General in his purpose of dividing the city of Montreal into five postal zones for the purpose of making tenders more meaningful. Having said this, the minister recognizes that the relationship between the new employers and employees will eventually be a problem of the Department of Labour. My department has agreed, at the suggestion of the Postmaster General, to act as mediator in this conflict.

[Translation]

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour.

Does he want employees with some 20 to 25 years of service to be dismissed while he remains indifferent to their fate?

[English]

**Mr. Mackasey:** Mr. Speaker, I think the first thing that the unions must learn is that violence and slowdowns are hardly conducive to the proper attitude needed to arrive at a settlement—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

**Mr. Mackasey:** When the unions realize this it will make my role and that of my department a little easier in taking into consideration the 25 years of service that many of these people already have.

**FISHERIES****SEALS—PROTESTS REGARDING EFFECT OF NEW REGULATIONS ON LANDSMEN**

**Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador):** My question is directed

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, Mr. Speaker. Did the minister receive communications today from a number of locals representing Newfoundland fishermen containing protests against the new sealing regulations as they affect landmen? If so, what action has been or will be taken?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. member will help us to clarify the position in their minds. They can take adult seals, seals of the 1969 year class or older.

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the representations made, would the minister be kind enough to prepare and make a statement clarifying the department's position in detail at a very early date so that hon. members and the sealers affected will be aware of the situation?

**Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, I think generally speaking the sealers are aware. It is some of these people on the shore who go out individually who have not been fully apprised of the situation. We are doing everything we can to make sure they are informed.

**GRAIN****NON-PRODUCTION OF WHEAT—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON ACREAGE PAYMENTS POLICY**

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Wheat Board. Is it the minister's intention to make a statement on a policy of acreage payments to induce farmers to take wheat acreage out of production and, if so, when does he intend to make such a statement?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, I have made some comments about this problem in discussions with prairie farmers. When there is a policy statement on behalf of the government to be announced, it will be announced.

**Mr. Gleave:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister also considering reducing the rates of payment on storage to grain elevators which drew \$73 million last year in income?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of making a statement on the subject of storage in the near future.