

*Inquiries of the Ministry***FISHERIES****NOVA SCOTIA—REQUEST FOR BAIT SUBSIDY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the fact that inshore fishermen of Nova Scotia generally are required to pay twice as much for their fish bait as are their counterparts in Newfoundland, would the hon. gentleman give consideration to the application of a bait subsidy in favour of Nova Scotia fishermen identical to the one paid in Newfoundland?

Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries): I am sure the hon. member is well aware that the bait assistance which is being provided in Newfoundland cannot be considered as a direct subsidy. It is a service provided to the fishermen of Newfoundland in accordance with the terms of union, or the terms which were put forward when Newfoundland joined confederation.

As far as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, or any other maritime province is concerned, we at present have a bait subsidy policy with respect to the construction of bait storage facilities.

Mr. Crouse: In view of the fact that this bait subsidy which the minister has mentioned discriminates against fishermen in Nova Scotia, would the hon. gentleman not consider extending a similar subsidy to fishermen in our province?

Mr. Robichaud: There is no such discrimination. The subsidy applicable today has been applicable for a number of years, and conditions have not changed.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**MALTON, ONT.—LAY-OFFS AT DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT PLANT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and ask whether he has yet seen a telegram from the president of local 112 of the United Automobile Workers protesting against the lay-off of some 89 employees by Douglas Aircraft at Malton. In view of the suggestion that many of those laid off were engaged in an on the job training program, can the minister inform the house what steps he is taking to persuade the company to reinstate them immediately?

[Mr. MacEachen.]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I have received a telegram, and I hope to be in a position to make a complete report on this situation some time tomorrow.

COAL**NOVA SCOTIA—REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I have a question for the Prime Minister. In order to relieve anxiety among those of the public who are interested in and aware of the situation, would the right hon. gentleman now announce government policy with respect to the Nova Scotia coal industry?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Not today, Mr. Speaker, but as soon as possible.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Again, I appeal to the Prime Minister. In order to relieve the anxiety which now exists, why does he not immediately release this policy? He has indicated that it is ready now for release. Why keep the miners and the people of Nova Scotia waiting?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been answered by the Prime Minister. The hon. member for Cape Breton South may think the answer is not satisfactory but, as he knows, he cannot require a minister to answer. The second part of his question would appear to be argumentative.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): A further supplementary, then. I ask the Prime Minister this. Has government policy been prepared now, ready for release later?

Mr. Pearson: The matter is under consideration, and as soon as that consideration is completed I will be as anxious as is the hon. gentleman to make public the views of the government in the house.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I ask the Prime Minister how he can equate that last statement with the information he gave me in the house yesterday as reported at page 8586 of *Hansard*, when he said:

I am sure my hon. friend will be very happy about the policy when it is announced.

The only impression one can take from this answer is that the policy is ready but that the government will not release it.

Mr. Speaker: Order.