

The hon. member also asked concerning the advisability of an inquiry into this matter under section 35 of the code, and I would say that a formal inquiry would not appear to be necessary at this time. If and when a specific complaint is made it will be dealt with in the usual way and an interpretation and ruling made with respect to the rights of employees under the code.

Coming now to the question asked by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni, which was put as a supplementary question yesterday, it does not appear, on the basis of the information we have, that an amendment to the Canada Labour (Standards) Code is needed.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): As a supplementary question may I ask the minister whether the Pacific coast dispute was not due to the contention of the employers that the collective bargaining agreement took precedence over the Canada Labour (Standards) Code? Has any ruling been handed down, or is it the minister's intention to have an inquiry into this aspect of the dispute?

Mr. Nicholson: This question was raised by the employers in the Supreme Court of British Columbia before Mr. Justice Ruttan. I have asked for a report as to His Lordship's reasons in the decision he rendered, but I might say I still do not think it will be necessary to hold an inquiry. If the union gives us the facts of a specific case, then in my humble opinion it probably can be dealt with under the act as it stands, but I would like to have Mr. Justice Ruttan's reasons for judgment before making a final statement.

AGRICULTURE

MANITOBA—REPORTED DISEASE IN CATTLE HERDS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Bruce S. Beer (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last the hon. member for Springfield asked a question regarding an outbreak of disease among cattle herds in Manitoba, to which I replied that I had not received any communication but would check with the office of the minister.

There was an outbreak in early April of Salmonellosis affecting some 20 herds. This is not a named or reportable disease under the Animal Contagious Diseases Act and regulations. The outbreak was dealt with by the provincial authorities assisted by officials of

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the health of animals division of the Canadian Department of Agriculture, in their investigations. I am advised that there have been no further cases reported since that time, but our officials are continuing to co-operate with the provincial authorities in further investigation of the cause.

[Translation]

WINTER WORKS

QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON REPORTED FRAUDS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the future minister of manpower?

As concerns the question I had asked him some time ago about Notre-Dame-de-la-Guadeloupe, winter works and certain charges of fraud and swindle in this field, the minister had promised to hold an inquiry. Can the minister inform the house as to the results of this inquiry, if completed?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Mégantic knows that the inquiry he has asked for must be handled through the provincial government. The steps have been taken and as soon as I know the results, I will be glad to advise him accordingly.

[English]

FARM MACHINERY

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT RESPECTING INVESTIGATION REQUEST

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I want to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture, but in view of his absence today and I believe also his absence yesterday, I shall put it to the Prime Minister. In answer to a question which I put some days ago the Minister of Agriculture promised that an inquiry would be set up into the high cost of farm machinery. In view of the report that Massey Harris has shown a 160 per cent increase in its profits, has the government taken a decision to set up that inquiry now?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the matter is under consideration. I expect to be able to make an announcement, or that the minister will do so, within a day or two.