

Inquiries of the Ministry

made representations officially to the Canadian government protesting the recommendations of the royal commission on publications? If so, what action does the government propose to take?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, that is a question which I think would be more properly addressed to the Prime Minister as leader of the government.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, I then direct my question to the Prime Minister.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I shall take the hon. gentleman's question as notice. I shall look into the record and ascertain the present position with respect to the representations made by the United States, and will then advise what course may be followed.

I might say that whatever representations are made, we are making the fullest study of the recommendations of the O'Leary commission. When we are in a position to advise the house as to the course to be taken thereon or with respect to any portion of the report, the house will be made aware of this.

INDUSTRY**SHIP OPERATING AND SHIPBUILDING—INQUIRY AS TO TABLING OF REGULATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. On May 12 he announced a new policy with respect to government assistance to Canadian ship operators and shipyards. When will particulars relating to the administration of this plan be approved and tabled?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, a draft of those regulations has been prepared and was ready about a month ago. This draft was sent to the various ship-owners' and shipbuilders' associations for their comments. We have received quite a lot of correspondence on the matter. A final draft has been submitted to the cabinet, and this draft will be tabled in the house on Monday.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister a supplementary question. Did he, under the powers conferred upon him by the Canada Shipping Act, authorize the entry into Canada of a ship called *Vacationland*, a Detroit ferry boat, for the express purpose of operating a ferry service between Father Point and Baie Comeau?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. It has been the practice of the Department of Transport to refuse entry into Canada of any vessels more than 10 years of age. With respect to vessels that are between five and ten years of age, a survey of the situation is made and, according to special circumstances, some of those vessels are accepted in Canada.

That is the situation with respect to the *Vacationland*, which is a very powerful icebreaker. The ship has been lying in lake Michigan. It was for sale, and a group of Canadians from the Rimouski area formed a company and bought that ship which is well suited for this type of ferry service between Father Point and Baie Comeau.

This ship is a full-fledged icebreaker. According to the experts of my department and the people in the trade she is extremely well suited for this type of operation.

Mr. Chevrier: I should like to ask the minister another supplementary question. Can he explain to the house how he reconciles this policy with the government's new assistance policy, which was announced to the house ten months ago, the object of which was to encourage the building of ships in Canadian yards on an occasion such as this?

Mr. Balcer: Mr. Speaker, I have just explained why we have accepted this ship. It was built at a cost of \$5 million. It was for sale for \$1 million. In the circumstances it was the best type of ship available and perfectly suitable for the job. I think it will do a tremendous good for the welfare of the industry and commerce in that area.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): May I also ask the minister a question. Do the regulations which are to be tabled on Monday include regulations having to do with assistance in building fishing vessels, which the minister announced at the same time and which, if I remember correctly, he said would be considered mainly by his colleague the Minister of Fisheries?

Mr. Balcer: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of National Revenue the following question. In the light of the reply given to me a moment ago by the Minister of Transport, that a Detroit ferry boat is being imported into Canada, can the minister tell the house whether the taxes payable to his department have been waived in this case, and if so, in what amount?

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I have not the details here at the moment. As far as I know, no such action has been taken. But I will make inquiries and advise the house.