

Inquiries of the Ministry
LABOUR CONDITIONS

PICTOU, N.S.—REQUEST FOR ORDER FOR
 RAILWAY CARS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, on Monday last I addressed a question to the Prime Minister in regard to the receipt of the telegram from Robert MacNaughton, president of the united steel workers of America, following a public meeting of residents of Pictou county dealing with unemployment and in particular asking whether the government could seek to obtain an order for the Eastern Car Company to produce railway cars. I wonder if the Prime Minister is in a position to give a reply.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as I recall it copies of the telegram referred to were addressed to a number of members and ministers. The Minister of Transport replied by telegram, which I might read to give the answer in detail. The telegram reads as follows:

Your telegram March 27 received and representations concerning employment situation arising from public meeting held in Trenton on March 26 have been carefully noted. With regard to the question of railway car orders I might say that following the interview in Ottawa to which you refer I communicated with the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific Railway company drawing attention particularly to conditions in Pictou county and asked both companies to review their requirements for equipment from the standpoint of assisting the employment situation. Am pleased to say that I have been informed that the Canadian Pacific have tenders out for 1,000 assorted units, and can also advise that Canadian National will be shortly calling for tenders for assorted units totalling approximately 225 cars. Canadian National advise as well that their requirements will be reviewed from time to time in the light of traffic needs.

REGINA—INQUIRY AS TO ARMY INTER-
 VENTION IN LAUNDRY STRIKE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Associate Minister of National Defence. In view of the fact that Rainbow Laundry and Dry Cleaners in Regina have been dismissing union members over contract negotiations and a strike has ensued, will the minister inform the house whether the army will respect the picket line and cease delivering laundry to the plant involved?

Hon. Pierre Seigny (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, although the hon. member gave notice earlier today of his intention to ask this questions, for which I thank him, it has not been possible in the time available to obtain the full particulars in this case without which I am unable to give the assurance the hon. member requests.

[Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle).]

However, I would say that we do respect at all times the legitimate rights of union members, and it is not one of the functions of the armed services to act to strikebreakers or in any way impede duly authorized and legal actions of any properly qualified labour union.

Mr. Argue: Do I take it from the minister that he will now inquire into the situation and report at a later date?

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

WAS SECRET FILE MADE AVAILABLE TO
 TORONTO NEWSPAPER?

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Will the minister confirm the statement appearing in last night's edition of the Toronto *Daily Star* to the effect that a secret R.C.M.P. file on communist subversive activities within Canadian unions was made available to a Toronto newspaper?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): No, Mr. Speaker, I certainly will not confirm that statement. I am advised by the R.C.M.P. that there is no record, and no knowledge on their part, of any files having been shown to any unauthorized person. It is not the policy of the R.C.M.P. or of the government that any official document of any kind be made available to unauthorized persons.

Mr. Hellyer: Could the minister say whether it is true that the R.C.M.P. did confirm the accuracy of the details which were published by a Toronto newspaper in respect of alleged undercover activities?

Mr. Fulton: If I understood the question correctly I think the answer would be no, there was no confirmation. I do not know to what article the hon. member refers. I think I had better have a look at the question in *Hansard* and give a reply later, if it can stand over until after Easter.

Mr. Hellyer: Perhaps I could rephrase the question. It is alleged that the newspaper article was given to the R.C.M.P. to check for accuracy before it was published.

Mr. Fulton: By the newspaper?

Mr. Hellyer: The question is, would the R.C.M.P. have checked a newspaper article before publication to verify its accuracy in respect of details contained in private and secret documents?

Mr. Fulton: This seems to me to be a hypothetical question containing a number of allegations, as to the accuracy of which I have to express some doubts.