

LABOUR RELATIONS**MARITIME UNION TRUSTEES—APPEARANCE
BEFORE STANDING COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the latest reported interest of the United States department of labour, the F.B.I. and the R.C.M.P. in the operations of the Seafarers' International Union in both the United States and Canada, would the minister be prepared to have the maritime trustees appear before the standing committee on labour and employment so that the members of the house can be informed of their stewardship and of the facts relating to the latest developments?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, there are no maritime trustees at the moment, the legislation having expired on December 31 last. I might say that I am expecting a written report from the maritime trustees on their activities up to December 31 last. When the report is received it will, of course, be tabled. Even though their trusteeship has expired it might be appropriate for them to appear before the committee, but until I have received the report I cannot say whether I should ask them to do so.

**PICARD REPORT—DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN
LONGSHOREMEN AND SHIPPING
FEDERATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Would the minister report on the status of the disagreement between the longshoremen in Montreal and the shipping federation relating to the Picard report, and is any action being taken to resolve this dispute before the spring shipping season opens?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the series of collective agreements between certain unions of the International Longshoremen's Association, and the shipping federation, as modified by the Picard report, expired on December 31 last, and there are now no collective agreements in existence. I might say that negotiations between the unions and the shipping federation have opened with a view to a new series of agreements and, as one might expect, the recommendations of the Picard report are being considered in the course of these negotia-

Inquiries of the Ministry

tions. Very recently—last week in fact—I assigned a senior official in the Department of Labour, Mr. Charles Poirier, to assist in the negotiations. He is the senior official of my department in the province of Quebec, and should be able to assist the parties in their discussions and negotiations.

**POSSIBILITY OF PROCEEDING WITH
LEGISLATION IN LIGHT OF
OPPOSITION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. In view of the widespread and violent opposition across the country to Bill C-186, is it the intention of the minister and the government to proceed with this legislation?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as hon. members know, this bill has been referred to the committee on labour and employment of this house. It has not had second reading. I hope that as soon as the committee is organized it will begin its hearings at as early a date as possible.

VETERANS AFFAIRS**MEANS TEST FOR APPLICANTS
UNDER LAND ACT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Veterans Affairs may I direct this question to the Acting Prime Minister. According to a departmental directive, starting April 1 a means test will be applied to veterans who wish to become established under the Veterans Land Act. In view of the serious inequities and hardships to veterans that may result, will the Prime Minister give immediate consideration to revoking this directive?

Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend's question included not only a question but also a statement of fact that I will refer to my colleague the Minister of Veterans Affairs who will be in the house tomorrow, I believe.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**BURRARD DRY DOCK COMPANY—CONTRACT
FOR DESTROYER RECONVERSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a most urgent question of