

*Inquiries of the Ministry***SHIPPING****ST. LAWRENCE RIVER—ACTIVITIES OF
ICEBREAKERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the serious concern in the Atlantic ports, will the right hon. gentleman check to see whether the current ice-breaking activities by 11 ships in the St. Lawrence are in accordance with the guide lines laid down by the Minister of Transport when he was in Halifax on December 3 on ports' day and on previous occasions?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will take the matter up with the Minister of Transport who will be back shortly from the Caribbean where he has been the guest of those countries which are celebrating their independence.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the urgency regarding flooding seems to be over and in view of the mounting criticism in the Atlantic region which is spoiling the image of the Acting Minister of Transport in that area, will the Prime Minister call off the Acting Minister of Transport and stop all ice-breaking activities over the week end until the Minister of Transport returns?

Mr. Pearson: I am anxious to do whatever I can to preserve the image of the acting minister, whoever he may be. I shall be pleased to take up the matter with him at once.

AGRICULTURE**LONG TERM LOANS TO EXHIBITION BOARDS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. Pascoe (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. When speaking in Lethbridge the minister is reported to have said that legislation providing for long term loans to exhibition boards for multipurpose buildings may be possible before the end of this session. Can the minister amplify these remarks and report in this regard?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question which has been asked is not acceptable. I have tried to indicate to the hon. members that according to our rules an hon. member may refer to a statement made outside the house only to ask whether it reflects government policy, but the question must be directed to the Prime Minister.

[Mr. Pearson.]

Mr. Pascoe: This is a very urgent matter.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Prime Minister might like to comment on it.

Mr. Pascoe: Then, I will direct the question to the Prime Minister. When speaking in Lethbridge the Minister of Agriculture is reported to have said that legislation providing for long term loans to exhibition boards for multipurpose buildings may be before the house this session. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether this is likely to happen.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Well, it might be before the house this session if the session goes on long enough, but I think it is more likely to be considered later in the year because I hope this session will be ending very shortly.

[Later:]

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has he reached a decision regarding the granting of long term loans for exhibitions and fairs and, if so, what is that decision?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Certainly this question should be placed on the order paper.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**INQUIRY AS TO ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION
THIS SESSION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, in view of what the Prime Minister said about the session can he now say how many more pieces of legislation the government intends to put on the order paper to be dealt with at this session, because four additional items already have been added?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if we can deal with the items which now appear on the order paper, I think that would be a very good time to prorogue.

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Prime Minister sticking to his target date of March 10 for the ending of this session?

Mr. Pearson: March 10 is next Friday. I think we would be very fortunate indeed if we completed the business on the order paper by next Friday, but it is not beyond the bounds of human possibility.