

ment to his knowledge to deal with the extremely difficult situations in these two cases?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, at the Scott mill, I understand that the difficulty has been created by a flood and as the plant is considered obsolescent the company has decided not to reopen it. Officials of the Department of Regional Expansion and my department are in touch with the local authorities and company to determine if ways can be found to help the local labour situation.

• (2:30 p.m.)

As to the Bowater plant at Corner Brook, I have already indicated that no formal representation has been received by my department or any other department as far as I know, from the company or from the Newfoundland government. However, officials of my department and possibly others are in touch with the Bowater authorities in London and with the Newfoundland government to try to find ways to help the Bowater mill at Corner Brook. Of course there is an international situation in pulp and paper which is not of our making and has to be taken into account. As everybody knows, we are going through a rather difficult time in pulp and paper internationally due to overproduction.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a supplementary to the Prime Minister. Did he receive a telegram yesterday from the vice-president of the Canadian directorate of the pulp and paper workers with regard to the shutdown of the plant at Sheet Harbour, Nova Scotia, alleging that the company's excuse for the shutdown was unjustified and that the result would cause very great hardship to the entire community? Did he receive that wire and what reply, if any, has he made to it?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Looking at my records I see that I have not received that wire, but it is possible it might have arrived in the last little while. I will check and if it has arrived I will be in a position—does the member over there know anything about it?

Mr. MacInnis: On a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member for York South but we have to consider a question of privilege at this time.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege because of the remark made by the Prime Minister. I want to assure you, Sir, and the House that I do not read his mail.

An hon. Member: Can you read?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question of privilege having been disposed of, we will return to the hon. member for York South for a further supplementary.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, the wire was sent to the Prime Minister very early yesterday morning. Perhaps the Prime Minister will ask his staff to provide him with it. I would have assumed this would have been done by now.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It was my impression that the hon. member had a supplementary. He has the floor for that purpose.

Inquiries of the Ministry

UNEMPLOYMENT IN CORNWALL—ANNOUNCEMENT OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BY PRIME MINISTER ON FORTHCOMING VISIT

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister a question arising out of the announcement that he will be visiting the city of Cornwall at the end of this week. When he visits that city, will he be able to announce a specific program of assistance to deal with the very high rate of unemployment, 20 per cent, in that city?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am having some public meetings there. If the member wants to send any representatives they will hear what I have to say.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We will soon be running out of time, but if the hon. member is rising on a question of privilege or on a point of order he is entitled to the floor. Otherwise the hon. member for Hamilton West has been waiting patiently for an opportunity to ask a question and I should like to recognize him.

Mr. Lewis: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I respectfully suggest to you, Sir, and to the Prime Minister that if the Prime Minister does not want to answer a question that is his privilege but to deal with a serious situation in the light way in which he did—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order may I respectfully suggest to you that just because noise comes forth every time one says something is no reason for the person who has the floor to be seated. Just because they start making noise every time something unpleasant is said—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. Lewis: I am sorry—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for York South is entitled to the floor if he is rising on a point of order and I recognize him for that purpose.

Mr. Lewis: That is what I am doing, Mr. Speaker. I do not intend to be shouted down either.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, the record ought to show that when the Prime Minister is asked a question about a very serious situation in a city which he is about to visit his answer is irrelevant and as insensitive as all his behaviour in this House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!