

*Inquiries of the Ministry***LABOUR CONDITIONS****GLACE BAY, N.S.—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO UNEMPLOYED MINERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour arising out of a telegram I have received from William H. Marsh, president of district 26 of the united mine workers, in which he states that 100 working men in the Caledonian mine who are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance cannot obtain it because they have made less than 24 weekly contributions. In view of the fact that this is one of a series of telegrams from Mr. Marsh complaining about unemployment conditions in this area and lack of unemployment insurance benefits, I wonder whether the minister could say what action, if any, the government is contemplating in this connection.

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as far as the Unemployment Insurance Act is concerned it is quite plain, and there is no intention of diverging from the act in this respect.

Mr. Argue: Has the government or any department of the government made a survey of unemployment conditions in this area? Is the government considering any action that might relieve an extremely difficult unemployment situation?

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, speaking for the government I may say that the Department of Labour itself, through the national employment service, is continually in touch with the situation and is doing everything possible to alleviate it in the form of other placements, if that is necessary. However, I think this is a temporary situation. I am not fully aware of nor have I all the particulars, but I will certainly look into the matter to see if there is any way in which help through our national employment service can be extended to these people.

NEWFOUNDLAND—INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT ACTION ON LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister which is a follow-up to a very similar question I asked him on May 28. Can the minister say whether any further consideration has been given to the disallowance of the controversial Newfoundland labour legislation, which I suggest is repugnant to our concept of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): The matter of disallowance is receiving continuing consideration. I believe under the constitution the period is set within which a decision must be made, and the constitutional requirements in that regard will be met.

Mr. Erhart Regier (Burnaby-Coquitlam): May I ask a supplemental question of the Minister of Justice in this regard. Is the minister in a position to indicate to the house the nature of the replies he has sent on behalf of the government to the representations that have been made in regard to this matter of disallowance?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I cannot recall the replies I have sent to all the representations, but my recollection is that in general they have been to the same effect as the statement just made by the Prime Minister.

TRANSPORT**ST. JOHNS, QUE.—STATEMENT RESPECTING PURCHASE OF PROPERTY**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): On Wednesday last the hon. member for St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville asked me a question with regard to the lease of a site south of the central Vermont railway station in St. Jean.

A resolution from the city of St. Johns regarding certain lands in the area has just been received in my office, having been apparently dispatched under cover of a letter from the city dated June 26. Neither I nor my officials have as yet had an opportunity to study this matter, but it is receiving immediate attention. I have no record of having received any recent representations from the junior chamber of commerce of St. Johns on this matter.

BRIDGES**CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE, MONTREAL—STATEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Also on Wednesday, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Ann asked me why work was suspended on the Champlain bridge. The answer is that there is no suspension of work on the Champlain bridge. There are at present under way the following works:

The construction of piers between Montreal and Nuns' island.

The extension of the St. Pierre collector outlet.