

express his personal gratitude and the gratitude of the steelworkers. I should also like to express my gratitude to the Prime Minister for that.

That leads up to the following question: Workers of the Cape Breton Development Corporation do not have a contract at the moment. The last proposed contract was rejected. There have been some discussions with the president of the Cape Breton Development Corporation, Mr. Derek Rance. Has Mr. Rance now decided that he is going to meet with the coalminers and start bargaining?

I am pleased to know that the steelworkers have had their dispute settled; now I would like something done for the coalminers. Will Mr. Rance meet with the United Mine Workers Union, its president, Mr. Joe Burke, and his executive and get back to the table and get these negotiations started, as the minister, Mr. Côté, has suggested, or is Mr. Rance going to continue saying: "Well, I shall continue to deal with six or seven other unions before I get back to you people."?

Is the leader in a position to tell us whether this will be expedited so that this problem is settled and another contract is signed, thus enabling that segment of the workers on Cape Breton Island to have peace of mind?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I am aware of the problem. My honourable colleague helpfully arranged for me to see representatives of the United Mine Workers Union, District 26, when I was in Cape Breton for the opening of the Canada Winter Games.

I am also aware that the Department of Labour has done some mediation in this dispute.

I do not know whether a date has been set for returning to the negotiating table, but I shall undertake to determine that from Mr. Côté.

Senator Muir: I have a supplementary question. I appreciate what the leader has said, and I thank him for that, but would he, no later than today, have someone get in touch with Mr. Côté so that someone can then get in touch with Mr. Derek Rance and ask him to get busy down there so that the coalminers will know that they have someone they can work with in an effort to get a contract and get this settled?

Senator Murray: I will certainly convey the honourable senator's representations to my colleague as soon as I get out of here.

THE CABINET

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST INQUIRIES—ASSUMPTION OF MINISTERS' LEGAL COSTS

Hon. John B. Stewart: Honourable senator, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Yesterday the President of the Treasury Board tabled supplementary estimates (C) for the financial year ending March 31, 1987. Those supplementary estimates contained a second

tranche for payment for the Sinclair Stevens inquiry, a very large tranche.

My question is not a new one; it is this: Does the government have a settled policy with regard to the payment of counsel for ministers who, one way or another, become involved in similar inquiries as a result of an alleged breach of conflict-of-interest guidelines, and, if there are not now rules with regard to the compensation of counsel, are such rules being developed, and, if so, when will they be made public?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I will inquire as to whether there is a settled policy or whether there are guidelines on the matter. There are precedents—and the problem with precedents of this kind is that no two cases are exactly alike—but there are precedents for the government to pay counsel.

Senator Stewart: Perhaps when the Leader of the Government in the Senate is giving his response, he will let us know the precedents which exist where the Crown has paid the expenses of a minister involved in an alleged breach of conflict-of-interest guidelines situation such as that which prevails here.

THE JUDICIARY

REPORT OF COMMISSION ON JUDGES' SALARIES AND BENEFITS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. John B. Stewart: Honourable senators, while I am on my feet, may I ask if the government has yet formulated its response to the report and recommendations of the 1986 Commission on Judges' Salaries and Benefits?

It is contended that judges need an ample increase in salaries, because without such an increase it will be difficult for the government to attract to the bench suitable lawyers, because they already make such fabulously large salaries in private practice—presumably as a result of acting as counsel on inquiries and other such activities.

• (1440)

What does the government propose to do with regard to implementing the recommendations of the 1986 commission?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): I am sure Mr. Guthrie's report will be taken under advisement by the government, and a decision will be announced in due course.

[Later]

CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT—STATUS OF INCUMBENT

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, may I follow up on a question with respect to Devco asked by Senator Muir?

I noted several days ago that the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, Mr. Côté, said that he was reviewing the performance of Devco, including the management. I also noted