

Inquiries of the Ministry

view of the heavy demands being made on manpower training facilities and the resultant inability of some people to find accommodation within the program, is the minister holding discussions with the provincial governments in order to increase facilities available for manpower training?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the facilities are not manpower facilities but rather facilities provided by or obtained within the provinces. There are continuing discussions taking place between manpower officials and the various departments of the provinces in connection with facilities that are available and future requirements, and these discussions continue steadily.

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GRAIN

ALLEGED SLOWDOWN IN MOVEMENT TO VANCOUVER BECAUSE OF LABOUR PROBLEMS—ADVANCE NOTICE OF GRADES REQUIRED

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. In view of the observation made by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration yesterday on the program "Question Period" to the effect that there was some slowdown in the movement of grain to Vancouver during the period when a couple of sporadic labour problems led to difficulties, can the minister inform the House where the slowdowns occurred and for how long the flow of grain was slowed down?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, not having had any advance notice of this question I can hardly answer it with any accuracy.

Mr. Skoberg: Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration who is in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the fact that grain movement to Vancouver was slowed down for only two days, can the minister inform the House how much advance notice is required to meet our commitments for specific grades of grain bound for export?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I must have missed something at the beginning of the question and I would be glad to have the hon. member repeat it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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[Translation]

POST OFFICE

FORMER EMPLOYEES OF G. LAPALME INCORPORATED—RESULTS OF MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT OF CNTU

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

[Mr. Rowland.]

Last Friday he met the president of the CNTU, Mr. Marcel Pépin, with regard to the former employees of G. Lapalme Inc.; I should like to ask him whether an agreement was reached as a result of this meeting?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, one can say an agreement was reached but not on the matter of rehiring the men. We agreed to consider any CNTU proposal that might be fair to all parties concerned, including the people the government assigned to posts turned down by the former employees of G. Lapalme Inc. Although no agreement was reached with regard to resuming negotiations, on either side, we did not however close the door to future representations, should there be need for any.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Can the Prime Minister tell us whether Mr. Marcel Pépin intends to submit suggestions to the government with a view to settling this conflict which has been going on for several months?

Mr. Trudeau: I cannot say, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Pépin had no specific suggestions to make on Friday. He should perhaps make suggestions to the former employees of G. Lapalme Inc. and submit a specific proposal to the government. However, as I said before, no proposals were made on Friday.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day. Is the hon. member rising on a question of privilege?

Mr. MacInnis: Yes, Mr. Speaker. My question of privilege arises from the fact that the Minister of Labour indicated I had prefaced a question with a statement that was not in accordance with the facts. At that time I referred to the fact that Devco has used coercion on preretired miners. This statement was questioned by the minister, so I ask him to check what the vice-president of industrial relations of Devco said before a committee in answer to a direct question by the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave):

So in effect this would be the coercion to get him down there.

He was referring to the Unemployment Insurance Commission people. The answer given by Mr. McDade, the vice-president of industrial relations was: "Yes." I would simply ask the minister this question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member now seeks to ask the minister a question. He has raised a matter of discussion as to the accuracy of either the statement made by the hon. member or the reply given by the minister. I suggest this is a matter of debate between the minister and the hon. member, and I am wondering whether the minister and the hon. member might not get together and look at the evidence before the committee in an attempt to straighten out the matter. I really do not think this can be resolved by a question of privilege.

Mr. MacInnis: I rise on a point of order and I do so with great deference to you, Sir. Has it not been a rule of