

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Did this delegation ask that in addition to the supplementary unemployment benefits, TAB benefits be paid also? What was the reaction of the government to that request?

Mr. Nicholson: That was one of the suggestions put forward, and it is being carefully studied along with other suggestions and submissions made by the delegation.

[Translation]

HARBOURS**MONTREAL—EARLY HANDLING OF U.S. GRAIN**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance and Receiver General.

Will the Minister of Finance tell us if next spring the Montreal harbour will be able to handle American grain before the harbours at Fort William and Port Arthur are open?

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me that this question is a little premature and could easily be put on the order paper.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Speaker, last April the minister had talks with the Board of Grain Commissioners and the Montreal harbour board and was to report to us, but we never heard anything more. That is why I am asking this question today.

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not like to disavow responsibility, but this matter really concerns my colleague the Minister of Agriculture, who is responsible for the Board of Grain Commissioners.

Mr. Ricard: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I then direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I believe we intend to hold a meeting with the Montreal port authority soon.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**SUPPORT OF UNIFICATION PROGRAM A PROMOTION FACTOR?**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for

the Minister of National Defence. Has information been relayed from the minister's office or from the department to any officers or men in the services to the effect that enthusiastic support for the minister's program of unification will be a factor in considering matters of promotion?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Certainly not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

LABOUR RELATIONS**KINGSTON, ONT.—CROSSING OF PICKET LINES BY ARMED FORCES MEMBERS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, while I have the floor I should like to answer the question raised yesterday by the hon. member for Vancouver East who asked a question with respect to allegations that non-commissioned officers have been driving taxicabs in their off duty hours through the picket lines at Millhaven Fibres Limited near Kingston.

In general terms, it has been departmental policy not to interfere with servicemen engaged in part time employment outside the armed forces except in cases where their duties in the armed forces are affected.

According to our information no suggestion has been made that the servicemen off duty and in civilian clothes have acted illegally. Therefore we can only presume that it would be a matter for the individual taxi drivers to decide according to the dictates of their conscience. In this case it would appear that servicemen are subject to the same laws as ordinary citizens.

[Later:]

Mr. Harold Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, in view of the answer given a few moments ago by the Minister of National Defence and in light of the interest which I know he takes in the existence of good public relations between members of the armed services and the civilian population, may I ask whether it is not possible in some way, as a matter of urgency, to stop members of the armed forces from moonlighting, scabbing and going through local picket lines? The minister is interested in good public relations