

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**OFFSHORE EXPLORATION RIGHTS IN AREA
BETWEEN NEWFOUNDLAND AND FRENCH
ISLANDS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the recent discussions between Canadian and French officials on the issue of offshore exploration rights, has the minister any report to make on the conflicting national claims to the area between St. Pierre and Miquelon and the Canadian coast of Newfoundland?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think this question is of a very general nature. I am not sure the subject is of immediate urgency. If it is the hon. member may so indicate; otherwise it seems to me this matter could be dealt with by way of a statement on motions.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, in answer to your suggestion may I say that I believe a delegation was sent from Canada to Paris, and that it returned only this week end. Therefore I would welcome any announcement the minister has to make because of the importance of this question not only to Canada nationally but to all our provincial premiers.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions between the French and Canadian governments in France within the past few days. Our delegation has returned to Canada and is making a report some time tomorrow, when we will have an opportunity of seeing what progress the negotiations have made. My impression is that the progress has not been what we had hoped it would be; however, the discussions are continuing.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**REQUEST FOR COPIES OF ECONOMIC COUNCIL
STUDY ON MANPOWER ADJUSTMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he would undertake to request the Economic Council to supply members of this house with copies of its latest study on manpower adjustment to technological and other change, because as far as I know we have not yet received a copy.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will be very glad to do that. I

Inquiries of the Ministry

think the report just came out yesterday, but I shall be glad to ask the chairman whether that can be done.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question. I should also like to ask the right hon. gentleman whether the study suggests any legislative action in reference to the kind of arrangements that should be made between labour and management in the case of technological change; and in that case may I ask whether the government is contemplating such legislative action on the subject.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I have not yet had an opportunity to do more than read the report casually. I am not sure whether there is any recommendation for legislation. My impression is that there is not. In so far as the general nature of the question is concerned, we will be awaiting a report from the task force on labour legislation which I believe will have certain recommendations on this as on other subjects. However, we should like to have that before we decide on what legislation should be introduced.

DOMINION COAL BOARD**REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS TO FILL
EXISTING VACANCIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that regrettably another member of the Dominion Coal Board has now passed away, which leaves two vacancies on the board, and in view of the critical situation of the coal industry and its future, can the minister advise when new appointments will be made to fill these vacancies on the board, especially in regard to a representative from the ranks of labour?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for being reminded of this situation and I will do my very best to correct it. If the hon. member would kindly become a candidate I might act even more rapidly.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): A supplementary question. May I ask the minister whether he is desirous of removing me from the house? I always thought he rather liked me, like the Minister of Transport.