

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**INDUSTRY****MANIWAKI, QUE.—DISCUSSIONS REGARDING  
SUBSIDIZATION OF SOGEFOR LIMITED**

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Is he in a position to tell this House whether he has had any talks with the government of the province of Quebec with a view to granting money one way or another to the SOGEFOR plants in Maniwaki and Lac-des-Îles?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. member for Abitibi wish to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr. Laprise:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister whether he intends to get in touch with the Quebec authorities or the SOGEFOR management and come to an agreement which might forestall the closing of the plants on March 5 next?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is making a suggestion which he must assume will be taken into account.

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[English]

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION****PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND NEWFOUNDLAND—PROPOSED INCENTIVE GRANTS TO PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** I should like to ask the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion whether the government is giving consideration to a proposal from the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council to allow primary industries in Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland to qualify for regional incentive grants in view of the failure of the program in these two provinces?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of this request. It has likely reached my department and I shall have the opportunity to discuss it.

[English]

**PARTICIPATION BY MINISTER IN NEWFOUNDLAND  
CONFERENCE**

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** In view of the criticism levelled at the minister and his department by the Premier of Newfoundland, is it the minister's intention to participate in the economic conference planned in Newfoundland for February 4, and will he have his five-year development plan ready by that time?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I have seen several letters and statements from Mr. Smallwood congratulating the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, but I am not aware of the last one. Unfortunately, I shall be unable to attend this conference.

[Mr. Stanbury.]

[English]

**DRUGS****LEGALITY OF POSSESSION OF HALLUCINOGEN MDA**

**Mr. Gordon Sullivan (Hamilton Mountain):** I have a question for the Minister of Justice. In view of the recent death of Tom Coles in Toronto caused by sniffing the hallucinogen MDA, is the government considering making possession of this drug illegal?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** I suppose that question falls more properly under the authority of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, but because of its importance I should like to answer it now. The question, I think, is based on an editorial in a Toronto newspaper to the effect that MDA is not covered under the present legislation. I am advised that in fact the drug MDA was added to Schedule J of the Food and Drugs Act on November 26, 1969. It is therefore a restricted drug, and both possession and trafficking are currently unlawful.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** What was the name of the newspaper? It is so far behind the times.

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**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****INABILITY OF DISPLACED BOWATERS MERSEY SAWMILL  
EMPLOYEES TO COLLECT BENEFITS**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Labour. Because of a decline in the sale of lumber the Bowaters Mersey Paper Company closed its sawmill in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, on December 15. However, its employees have been unable to collect their unemployment insurance to date. In view of the seriousness of their economic situation, will the minister investigate the matter to determine the reason for the non-payment of claims?

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**ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY****OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO EXPRESS VIEWS PRIOR  
TO ACTION ON TOLLS**

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the visit of the Minister of Transport to Washington, presumably on the St. Lawrence Seaway toll matter, will the Acting Prime Minister assure the House that there will not be any action, unilateral or otherwise, by the Canadian government on this matter until members of the House have had a chance to express themselves, preferably in the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** I think I can give one assurance, namely, that it will be some time before a decision is taken.

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** In view of the fact that the Minister of Transport is absent because of his meeting with his United States counterparts on