

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Bell: In this connection, will the Minister make a statement on whether representations are expected at the Dominion-Provincial Conference in connection with the transportation item on the agenda, because this question is looming large now in the Maritimes.

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not think I should attempt to anticipate the proceedings of the Federal-Provincial Conference, but I may say I did give an assurance to the Premiers of the Atlantic Provinces that before any legislation was introduced I would receive representations from them; and it was thought, if the legislation could not be introduced before a recess, that that might be conveniently done at the time of the Federal-Provincial Conference.

HARBOURS**MONTREAL—REQUEST FOR EASIER ACCESS TO FACILITIES**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. It concerns an urgent matter which affects some two million people living in Montreal. A news item appeared in *La Presse* to the effect that the Montreal harbour authorities deny access to the harbour to the citizens of Montreal who have no other place for summer relaxation.

Is the minister aware of this situation and does he intend to order the Montreal harbour authorities immediately to allow the citizens access to harbour facilities during the summer season?

[English]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it would be very wise for a Minister of the Crown to proceed in the arbitrary fashion the hon. gentleman has suggested, but I will look into the matter.

Mr. Valade: As a supplementary question, does the Minister not realize that just a letter to the director of the harbour might be sufficient, asking him to be more lenient in the application of the rules so that people could use the port facilities during the season?

Mr. Pickersgill: I would be very glad to look into the matter.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

AGRICULTURE**SOUR CHERRIES—INQUIRY AS TO ASSISTANCE TO GROWERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the close proximity of the sour cherry season, could the Minister advise the House whether he proposes to use the value for duty provisions of the Customs Act or the price support system in order to assist the cherry growers of this country?

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, no decision has been made so far as this matter is concerned. Last year when the sour cherry people were in trouble the Stabilization Board assisted them at a cost of approximately \$300,000, but no decision has been made this year nor have we had any representations from these people.

Mr. Hales: Would the Minister do everything within his power to keep down the great flow of U.S. cherries coming into Canada?

DAIRY PRODUCERS—MAILING OF CLAIM FORMS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Loney (Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture but in his absence I will direct it to his Parliamentary Secretary. Can the Minister inform the House when the mailing to dairy producers of the claim forms for supplementary payments will be completed?

Mr. B. S. Beer (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister I am not able to give a concrete answer, but I will obtain the answer for the hon. Member.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**POINT EDWARD NAVAL BASE—ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR RELEASED EMPLOYEES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Associate Minister of National Defence; I think he is behind the curtain, or perhaps he has had to return to his office. In view of the fact that, according to yesterday's press, employees at the Point Edward Naval Base are now receiving official letters