

Inquiries of the Ministry

that many times, but I am assured now that it will be coming forward. I shall take up the matter with my colleagues and will make a decision at that time on whether or not the report is to be made public.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, can the minister assure the House that neither he nor his colleagues have interfered with the commission in the preparation of its report, and has such government interference caused any delay?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, the members of the commission were advised by me that I preferred that the report not be turned over to the government until it was ready in both official languages, at which time I considered it would be in a proper form to be turned over. I understand that that process is completed and I shall be receiving it very shortly.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, the minister probably did not understand my question. I asked him whether he or any of his colleagues had interfered with the recommendations that are now being put together in that report?

Mr. Munro: Absolutely not, Mr. Speaker.

AGRICULTURE**SUPPLYING OF COPIES OF FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING AGENCIES BILL TO INTERESTED PARTIES**

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can he indicate to the House why requests by interested parties for copies of his Bill C-197 are being refused, and can he assure the House he will make it his responsibility to ensure that such copies are made available?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): As the hon. member knows, my office is not responsible for the distribution of bills. If insufficient copies were printed in the first instance, I will do what I can to encourage additional copies to be printed, but I am not able to answer whether or not there was a greater demand than the first printing was able to satisfy.

IMMIGRATION**POLICY RESPECTING ADMISSION OF VISITORS REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL VIEWS**

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): My question is for the Minister of Manpower and [Mr. Munro.]

Immigration. In light of the fact that certain distinguished visitors from North Viet Nam to a conference at York University over the weekend could not get visas to enter Canada, can the minister assure the House that there is no change in the government's liberal policy to welcome visitors to such conferences without reference to their political views?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): The inability to issue visas on this occasion was not related to any change in policy. The existing and previous policy will continue into the future. If these delegates had applied earlier and given us an opportunity to process the applications, it might have been possible to avoid these difficulties.

Mr. Brewin: Can the minister say whether it would not have been possible in this case to abbreviate the time for making such inquiries?

Some hon. Members: Why?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me the hon. member is now asking a question which has a hypothetical flavour.

LABOUR RELATIONS**WEST COAST TOWBOAT STRIKE—GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE TO SETTLE DISPUTE**

Mr. Paul St. Pierre (Coast-Chilcotin): I have a question for the Minister of Labour, but in his absence I shall address it to his Parliamentary Secretary. Has the government taken any more initiative in the towboat strike in British Columbia, and has he any progress to report?

Mr. Jim McNulty (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): In the interests of the economy of the west coast and because of the thousands of laid-off workers who are helpless victims of this totally unnecessary stoppage of operations, the Minister of Labour has requested that both sides assume their full responsibilities to their members and the public, and to this end he has directed the director of the conciliation and arbitration branch, Mr. W. P. Kelly, to consult with representatives of both the parties involved in the towboat dispute for the purpose of determining their attitude to see if any avenues of settlement have opened since the pre-strike mediation.