

minister will make a statement. The minister may quite possibly clear himself completely, and in the interest of the discharge of his duties to the house I think this should be done. There is no possibility of making a charge.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond has risen on a point of order.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have been given to understand that questions of this nature were accepted if they were written questions. For some reason or another these questions have been refused. The question now arises, what is the difference between this scandal and the past furniture scandal?

LABOUR RELATIONS

MONTREAL—STUDY SESSION BY LONGSHOREMEN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Has the minister been made aware of the wildcat walkout yesterday by longshoremen in Montreal, and would he advise the house whether anything has been done to correct the grievances complained of and to guarantee that the port will remain in operation until the end of the shipping season?

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should be aware of the fact that this was not a wildcat strike but a study session in the true sense of the word in that the members met to discuss unusual suggestions of the employers to clean up the heavy backlog of cargo in the port of Montreal. This is the first work stoppage this year, which is a pretty good record. Further, the Minister of Labour does not consider his role to be such that he should be interfering every day in day to day disputes between management and labour.

Mr. Allmand: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Labour whether he has been assured that the port will continue to operate and there will be no further study sessions until the end of the season.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Mackasey: I cannot assure the hon. member of that, Mr. Speaker. That is not my responsibility, but I can reassure the hon. member that labour-management relations have never been as promising as they are this year, which I think is something to consider.

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. My understanding was that when the minister opened the washroom facilities on the Montreal waterfront last month everything was in order. Is this not the case?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, there were other sections of the rest room that needed opening and I should have invited the hon. member to open them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. MacEwan: Next time I hope the minister will.

FINANCE

CONSULTATIONS RESPECTING PROPOSED SECURITIES COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In connection with the federal-provincial conference on consumer affairs, will the minister advise the house whether a consensus has been reached with the provinces on the proposed federal securities legislation?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the officials met for a one day conference and the discussions they had were extremely useful. I think progress can be reported on developing a consensus between federal and provincial officials.

Mr. Howe: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it still the intention of the government to proceed with the securities legislation this session and, if so, will the government now take parliament into its confidence, as it has the provinces, and let us see the proposed bill?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, we do not at the moment have a bill to show hon. members.

ASSISTANCE TO MUNICIPALITIES BUILDING HOMES FOR AGED

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the