

*Inquiries of the Ministry***SHIPBUILDING****ASSISTANCE IN FILLING EXPORT ORDERS**

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. I am sorry he is so busy in the "hot seat" today instead of lying around at Harrison Hot Springs with his colleagues. In view of the recent indication by the minister of co-operation with our shipbuilders, particularly if they are able to obtain new export markets, can the minister say what he means in terms of aid to the industry since this information is needed by the industry when it is seeking new business?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think this question might more appropriately be answered by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I might say all departments, my own included, are co-operating, though I think this co-operation varies depending on the kind of request that comes to us from a shipbuilder when he does get an export order or there is the potential for an export order. However, I would be glad to refer this matter to my colleague for a more specific answer.

Mr. Bell: May I take this very fine gesture by the Minister of Transport and direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce since he has prime responsibility for shipbuilding. Would the minister take the opportunity now to reply to the question?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I lost the question. I was answering mentally the question on logs addressed to the Minister of National Revenue! Would the hon. member kindly repeat his question?

Mr. Bell: I was asking about inquiries of his department by shipbuilders. Can the minister give an indication to the shipbuilding industry of what is meant by aid and co-operation in seeking new export business?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I hope the minister will reply to this question briefly because I have the impression that the question as asked is very general in nature and normally would be replied to by way of a statement on motions. The minister may give a short reply.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the implication of the question is that no help is given to the industry now and this, of course, is a wrong impression to give. The shipbuilding industry

[Mr. Speaker.]

of Canada is subsidized at a very high level representing some tens of millions of dollars a year. The inquiry now being conducted is to find ways and means by which the subsidization program can be improved. I am working for shipyards on an almost daily basis. For example—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to interrupt the minister. If he wishes to go into the matter further he will have to do so by way of a statement on motions.

PUBLIC SERVICE**DELAY IN ISSUING RETROACTIVE PAY CHEQUES**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Supply and Services. On October 29, in response to a question of mine, he said it was the objective of the central pay office to be current by the end of November in the matter of retroactive pay cheques. Can the minister say whether that objective is being achieved?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are making progress toward achieving that objective.

TRANSPORT**NEWFOUNDLAND—APPLICATION BY PACIFIC HOVERCRAFT TO SERVICE SOUTH COAST**

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In view of the lack of proper transportation facilities on the south coast of Newfoundland, mainly as a result of indifference on the part of Canadian National Railways, would the minister undertake to get an early decision from the Canadian Transport Commission on an application submitted to that board by Pacific Hovercraft Limited to operate services in that area?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Long before the hon. member was even aware that this was happening, Mr. Speaker, I had made such representations to the CTC.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANS-SHIPMENT FACILITIES AT GANDER AIRPORT

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for my good friend and benevolent colleague, the Minister of Transport. In view of the