

Inquiries of the Ministry

question whether such equipment could be ordered and installed quickly enough to be useful this year. The other suggestion is that some smaller or portable drying facilities could be used at some of the terminals, and this is under consideration now.

Mr. Benjamin: Could the minister advise the house whether the dryer at the Lethbridge terminal is in operation?

Mr. Olson: The dryer at Lethbridge has not been used for a very long time. I am advised it is a very low volume dryer and so old that it would be very difficult to make it operational. The reason is that there is very little tough or damp grain in that area, and any which might be there would have to be shipped out of line, adding substantially to the cost.

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): In view of the fact that there has been very little improvement in the supply of box cars to the areas of tough and damp grain in Manitoba, would the minister look into this situation to determine whether it can be corrected?

Mr. Olson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, although I would not like to agree with the preamble that there had been very little improvement, because there has been improvement in all areas.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF FREEDMAN REPORT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): My question is directed to the Minister of Labour. Speaking in this house on November 21 the minister said:

I think the time has come for the Minister of Labour to convince his colleagues that legislation defining and emphasizing management's responsibilities to its employees in the area of technological change is long overdue.

He was referring to the Freedman report. My question is, has the hon. gentleman since been able to convince his colleagues that legislation based on the substance of the Freedman report is long overdue, and how soon can we expect to see legislation of this kind on the order paper?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: May I have a reply?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that the question as asked is not in order. He [Mr. Olson.]

is referring to communications between cabinet ministers, and I do not think a question of that type can be accepted.

Mr. Hees: May I rephrase my question. The reason I gave the background information is that I find these ministers require a great deal more background information than is normal before they are able to give answers to questions.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the hon. member ask the question now?

Mr. Hees: With pleasure. May I ask the minister whether in the near future, on motions, he will give a report as to the likelihood or otherwise of the government introducing such legislation?

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): If the hon. member can persuade me that he is able to convince his colleagues as rapidly as I am able to convince mine, this desirable legislation will have a rapid passage through this house.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Hees: If the minister does introduce such legislation I think he will find that members on this side of the house are very much in agreement with such a course.

TRANSPORT**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON SEAWAY EXPANSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a question for the Minister of Transport, and since this is one of the many days on which he is not present I will direct it to his stand-in, the Minister without Portfolio from Winnipeg. Can the minister tell the house the current status of the St. Lawrence Seaway expansion plan, which the seaway authority presented to the cabinet some little time ago?

Mr. Speaker: I would think what the hon. member is asking the minister to do now is to give the kind of general information which should normally be given by way of a statement on motions.

Mr. Nesbitt: Well, as a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nesbitt: Would the minister—