

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. John N. Turner (Acting Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice on behalf of the Minister of Transport.

Mr. Carter: A supplementary question. In view of the fact that protests are being registered against this proposed decrease in service, would the minister undertake to discuss the matter with Canadian National with a view to having them abandon their plans to decrease the service and eventually discontinue it altogether?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is making a suggestion which he will have to assume the minister will take into account.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**LAY-OFFS AT YARMOUTH TEXTILE PLANT
RESULTING FROM CLOSING OF DUNLOP
TORONTO PLANT**

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that the Dunlop plant in Toronto is closing on Thursday, can the minister tell the House how many lay-offs, if any, will occur at the Yarmouth textile plant and what action will be taken to overcome this situation?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, it is true that when the Dunlop plant ceases activity this will have some effect, I understand, on the Yarmouth plant. We are aware of this. We have made some effort to identify the extent of the problem and if there are projected lay-offs we will offer to Yarmouth all of the services which we are currently offering to the Dunlop employees, and which we think will be very helpful to the situation.

Mr. Comeau: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated previously that he was going to look into the effects and study them. He also said he would offer other employment to these people in Yarmouth. I suggest that there is none in Yarmouth under the ordinary program of the government.

**LAY-OFFS BY DUNLOP CANADA LIMITED—
RESPONSE BY ONTARIO MINISTERS TO
TELEGRAMS FROM FEDERAL MINISTER**

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Has the minister received a reply to the telegrams that he sent to the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Trade and Development of

Ontario in regard to any help that the federal government would give the provincial government in arriving at a feasibility plan to keep the Dunlop plant open? If he has not, what steps does he intend to take to get direct answers from those provincial departments?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, on my last check I had received no reply from either of the Ontario ministers. We are, however, working on our own in the Dunlop area with our manpower programs. I do not propose to take any further steps to get a reply to the messages that I sent some weeks ago.

Mr. Gilbert: A further supplementary question. Is the minister aware that his manpower facilities have yielded less than 10 per cent of employment opportunities for those employees at—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that this question is not in order.

**LAY-OFFS BY DUNLOP CANADA LIMITED—
LEGISLATION TO ASSIST WORKERS IN
SIMILAR SITUATIONS**

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Labour. Could the minister inform the House whether or not the federal government is giving consideration to legislation that would enable workers in the Dunlop kind of situation to have a more effective say in dealing with decisions that are made outside Canada?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that the Dunlop situation falls within the provincial field. The federal role, particularly that of the Minister of Labour, is very difficult in this sort of situation. I am afraid that the Dunlop lay-off has come about as a result of an international rationalization of an industry. With this type of international labour decision being made outside the country, the labour force and the government are becoming more and more helpless. While these decisions are very deplorable and do have an adverse effect on the labour market in Canada, we are almost helpless in light of the situation.

Mr. Broadbent: A further supplementary question. Is the minister saying that there is nothing the federal government can do in this area? This is an important point of clarification.