

*Inquiries of the Ministry*  
**LABOUR RELATIONS**

MARITIME UNIONS—INQUIRIES RESPECTING  
ADMINISTRATION BY TRUSTEES

great lakes, a matter that greatly affects potential shipping this year, as well as carrying with it detrimental effects in various fields of endeavour.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that the situation is most serious—for example, the lake Huron water level being at its lowest since records were first kept in 1860—any negotiations are being undertaken at present with the United States with respect to the Chicago conduit which draws off 3,000 cubic feet per second of drainage from the great lakes, and whether there is any co-operative plan now being considered by the governments of Canada and the United States with regard to this very important matter that will effect the economies of our two countries.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I share the right hon. gentleman's appreciation of the seriousness of this situation that seems to be cyclical on the great lakes, but which is certainly very serious at the present time. I am not aware at the moment of conversations which may or may not be going on with the United States concerning this matter, but I will be glad to look into it and make a report to the house at the earliest possible date.

**ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCES**

SUBMISSIONS TO ROYAL COMMISSION BY  
MEMBERS OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND  
ARMED FORCES

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister?

Could the Prime Minister assure the house that federal civil servants can, without danger of retaliation, submit briefs or reports to the Laurendeau-Dunton commission?

[*Text*]

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** I will have to look into this situation and give the hon. member a reply tomorrow or the next day.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gregoire:** Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question? Could the Prime Minister consider at the same time the reports submitted personally by members of the Canadian armed forces?

[*Text*]

**Mr. Pearson:** I will be glad to inquire into that also.

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether he has received any protests from the Canadian Labour Congress regarding the ascension to the S.I.U. presidency of Mr. McLaughlin.

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour):** No, Mr. Speaker.

May I take this opportunity to answer a question asked the other day by the hon. member for Ontario regarding the operation of seamen's hiring halls, in which the hon. member inquired whether employers have the privilege of rejecting an employee referred to them from the halls. I am advised by the board of trustees that the answer is yes.

I undertook to inquire further from the board of trustees regarding certain questions raised by the Leader of the Opposition and by the hon. member for Winnipeg North. First, with respect to the d.n.s. list of seamen, I have again been informed by the chairman of the board of trustees, Mr. Justice Dryer, that no list exists either in the form of a "do not ship" list or of a "registry of charges" list. Furthermore, the trustees have informed me that they have had a complete check made in all S.I.U. port offices from Halifax to Vancouver, including the fourth floor of the S.I.U. building in Montreal, and are fully satisfied that no such lists exist in any of these offices.

As I mentioned on Thursday last and again on Monday, the trustees are prepared to have the claim of any seaman whose name appeared at any time on lists that were in existence in earlier years investigated, and are presently endeavouring to have the facilities of the appeals board extended to adjudicate such claims. Commander Robertson, who presently constitutes the maritime appeals board, has limited powers covering cases extending back to a period of not more than three years. These powers are being exercised and the trustees are taking steps to have them extended, as I have indicated.

Another matter raised yesterday concerns S.I.U. fees and dues. As I indicated, provisions are set out in the constitution covering these matters. Probationary members are required to pay a probationary fee of \$240 including six months' regular dues at the rate of not more than \$40 per month for the six months. The constitution further provides that the payment of dues and initiation fees may be waived or reduced for organization purposes in accordance with such rules as