COMMONS DEBATES

March 19, 1969

[English]

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, a lot of people would like to know what the Minister of Labour intends to do after March 31. They will have to wait.

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct an additional question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the serious situation at the Montreal harbour, I would like the minister to inform the house and the people what measures he intends to take to see that the port is open, and to settle the present conflict at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, the labour negotiations are proceeding daily before Judge Gold, one of the finest judges charged with industrial relations in this country. The conciliation board is meeting daily, and it would certainly be inappropriate for the Minister of Labour to prejudge the findings of the judge's report.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

HIGHWAY SAFETY

RECALL OF GENERAL MOTORS PRODUCTS TO EXAMINE SUSPECTED DEFECTS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport a question, having in mind the fact that General Motors Corporation has recalled an additional one million automobiles in the United States and Canada for possible defects. My question is this: Can the minister say what progress is being made in setting up in-plant safety standard checks in Canada, as was recommended last year?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I really have nothing to add to the answer I gave on February 28, when I indicated that we would be introducing legislation, hopefully next session, in respect of safety standards in Canada, and that at that time the possibility of plant inspection would be considered. In the meantime I might repeat what I indicated then, that is, that in some cases, in fact in most of these cases that are now being reported and where large numbers of recalls are involved, the defects would not have shown up at the time of manufacture even if there had been inspectors in the plant. They are defects which became apparent only after considerable testing in the field.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister of Transport inform us whether the owners of these cars have to assume that they can go to any dealer and have these corrections made, or must they wait for a formal invitation to attend at certain places for the corrections?

Mr. Hellyer: I cannot say what the procedure would be in every case, but certainly in the more serious cases I have been informed that the owners will be notified by registered mail and an indication given as to where they should report to have remedial measures taken.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): A supplementary question to the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that a number of these vehicles are school buses, does the minister not feel he should take immediate action in connection with these particular vehicles?

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, immediate action is being taken by the manufacturers.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL DOCTORS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, but in his absence I direct it to the acting minister or the Prime Minister. In view of some divergence of views on the medical manpower situation, the apparent jungle of indecision and the extreme urgency of this problem if medical schools are to operate during the summer months, would the minister state whether he has discussed this urgent problem with the ministers concerned in the provincial governments?

[Translation]

Mr. Rosaire Gendron (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I shall take that question as notice and call the minister's attention to it.

[English]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

ALLEGED IMPROPER CHARGES FOR AUTO-MOBILE SAFETY INSTALLATIONS

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I should like to ask him whether his department has under-