

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

chief of the northern health services, Dr. Butler, that he would not recommend the consumption of leaf vegetables grown in Yellowknife because of dangerously high arsenic content levels, is the department taking any action to warn the public in Yellowknife and elsewhere and, in addition, to determine the cause of the contamination?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** I am interested to hear of this situation. I was not aware of it. I will certainly look into it right away.

**POLLUTION****HUDSON BAY—SOURCE OF MERCURY CONTAMINATION**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Since an analysis by the Fisheries Research Board's Freshwater Institute has revealed a surprisingly high mercury content in samples of meal made from beluga whales taken in the Hudson Bay area, has the government established the extent of mercury content in the bay and has the source of this mercury pollution been determined?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** The whales were caught at the mouth of the Nelson River. We have no samples from farther afield in Hudson Bay to indicate that the pollution is more widespread. The belief is that the source is the same as that which polluted the Lake Winnipeg waters. We are pursuing these matters, but we hope the source has been identified.

**SHIPPING****SAFETY STANDARDS ON FOREIGN-REGISTERED SHIPS OPERATING IN CANADIAN WATERS**

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** I have a question for the Minister of Transport or his Parliamentary Secretary. In view of the reported statement by Dr. McTaggart-Cowan that the safety standards on ships flying flags of convenience are disgraceful and that if similar standards existed with application to aircraft there would be a crash a week, I would ask the minister whether his department has laid down any regulations with respect to standards applicable to ships operating in Canadian waters, especially for those ships carrying cargoes such as oil which would cause serious environmental damage should a sinking occur?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member's question should be placed on the Order Paper.

[Mr. Nielsen.]

**HEALTH AND WELFARE****RAE—INDIAN DEATHS ALLEGEDLY CAUSED BY SEWAGE PLANT WATER**

**Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** My question is addressed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. On May 4 and May 20 I directed questions to him in relation to a communication sent to him by Mr. Roy Daniels, President of the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories, alleging that polluted water had caused the death of several adults and children in the community of Rae. The minister answered on May 20 that he would direct his officials to look into this matter. Is he now in a position to report on the result of this investigation?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** No, Mr. Speaker, I am still awaiting the report. I expect to receive it any day.

**LABOUR RELATIONS****WEST COAST TOWBOAT STRIKE—PRESENT POSITION OF NEGOTIATIONS**

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** My question is directed to the Minister of Labour. It is related to his comments a few moments ago regarding the settlement of disputes. Is the hon. gentleman in a position to bring the House up to date with regard to the towboat strike in British Columbia and, hopefully, on the progress which has been made?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I was talking to my representative, Mr. Kelly, a few moments before the sitting began. The dispute is now centred on two or three basic issues. At the beginning of the week there were many more. Presuming there is good will on both sides, and hoping they understand the tremendous strain this strike is placing on the economy of British Columbia, I believe that with a proper degree of flexibility on both sides the strike could be over very shortly.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** A supplementary question—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will have noticed that the Chair is attempting to recognize as many members as possible and it has been suggested that supplementaries might wait until tomorrow.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am very willing to accommodate you at any time but I might