

Inquiries of the Ministry

may be in danger when she visits Quebec in October, would the right hon. gentleman consider making arrangements to have Her Majesty visit Nova Scotia, where she will receive a warm welcome equal to that which I am sure she will receive in Prince Edward Island?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I am sure Her Majesty will receive a warm welcome in Quebec also.

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): A supplementary question.

[Translation]

Does the Prime Minister intend to have the hon. member for Lotbiniere (Mr. Choquette) accompany the Queen when she visits our country?

[Text]

TRANSPORT

RAILWAY BRANCH LINES—COMMITTEE STUDY OF COMMISSION REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Could the minister inform the house whether it is the government's intention to set up a special committee to study the report of the MacPherson commission on railway abandonment before proceeding with the recommendations contained therein?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the government, as I think was indicated in the speech from the throne, has the intention of introducing legislation along the lines that my colleague who is now President of the Privy Council (Mr. McIlraith) gave notice of at the last session of parliament. It is of course anticipated that this important legislation will go before a committee, but I imagine it will be the standing or the sessional committee on railways.

NEWFOUNDLAND—REQUEST FOR IMPROVEMENT IN RAIL SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Will the minister be making early representations to the C.N.R. to improve the rail service in Newfoundland and to standardize the railway in that province?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): That is a very large question too, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria).]

INCOME TAX

INQUIRY AS TO INCREASE IN EXEMPTIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Megantic): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue. Is it the intention of the government to raise the personal income tax exemptions this session?

Hon. J. R. Garland (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman will have to contain himself until the budget presentation.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. JEAN-PIERRE COTE AND SECONDED BY MR. RON BASFORD

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Pierre Cote (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all my dear fellow members for their warm welcome.

May I also, Mr. Speaker, tell the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) how much I appreciate the singular honour he wished to extend to the constituency of Longueuil by asking its representative to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne. The people of Longueuil are proud, and rightly so, of their territory and its many possibilities in the economic as well as in the cultural and social fields. I think that today, the Prime Minister wanted to recognize its contribution to our national heritage, more particularly as he might be somewhat worried and apprehensive with regard to the contents of my speech because, knowing me, he is aware that I am not afraid of speaking my mind, even concerning the speech from the throne.

I see in this more evidence of the Prime Minister's broadmindedness, and I am happy to reassure him immediately.

Though very brief, the speech from the throne which was read to us by the hon. representative of Her Majesty the Queen, contained, as all hon. members will admit, essential projects for the welfare of every Canadian and for the harmonious development of federal-provincial relations through consultation.

The speech from the throne once again proves that the government has embarked on a serious program and, instead of resting on its laurels, after accomplishing a tremendous amount of work during the first session, continues, even faced with an alert opposition, to carry out its self-imposed task.