

*Supply—External Affairs***TRANSPORT****REPORTED BANKRUPTCIES IN CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY TO GREAT SLAVE LAKE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Springfield): I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether he has yet reached a decision on the request he received several weeks ago from hon. members asking for an investigation into the bankruptcy of construction firms which built the Great Slave Lake railway.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Not yet, Mr. Speaker. This is one of the most complicated files I have had to look at, and I should like a few more days in which to consider it.

Mr. Schreyer: I should like to ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether it constitutes a breach of privilege for the minister to refuse to answer his mail.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the hon. member will consult the precedents and authorities he will see that it does not.

FINANCE**PREPARATION FOR POSSIBLE DEFLATIONARY U.S. POLICY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the clear implication in the statement by the governors of the central banks, and in view of reports from Washington that it is intended to pursue a severely deflationary policy in that country, has the minister instructed any of his officials or other economic experts in the government to prepare for the possibility of a deflationary drawback in the United States which might affect Canada?

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

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**OFFER TO FACILITATE PASSAGE OF BILL C-190**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the government house leader supplementary to the one I put to the acting leader on Friday last, as reported in *Hansard* at page 7699. Has the hon. gentleman yet made arrangements

[Mr. Speaker.]

for the house to deal this week with Bill C-190, to amend the Patent Act and the Trade Marks Act, and possibly one or two other items which have been mentioned?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker, arrangements have not yet been made with respect to any of those items. Any such arrangements would depend, naturally, upon the length of time required to debate any one or all of them.

Mr. Knowles: Will the minister call a meeting of the house leaders, or negotiate the possibility of these measures being dealt with during the present week?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to do so.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Batten in the chair.

The Chairman: Supplementary estimates of the Department of External Affairs for 1967-68, vote No. 10c.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

10c—Construction, acquisition or improvement of buildings, works, lands, equipment and furnishings, \$1,464,000.

Mr. Stanfield: I should like to make a few remarks, briefly I hope, on one aspect of the program of this department, much of which seems to be in a state of flux these days; at least that is my impression from the statements on various matters made by the contestants on the other side of the house. As a result I am a little confused as to the government's attitude toward a good many aspects of external affairs. Nevertheless there is one important part of this subject about which I should like to say something; it is the subject of foreign aid.

I assure the Secretary of State for External Affairs that my remarks are not intended to be critical. They are meant, rather, to be helpful.

● (3:30 p.m.)

It may be thought by some that this is a strange time to talk about external or foreign aid when we have internal financial strains, a considerable amount of unemployment, undeveloped areas in our own country, poor housing, poverty, and obviously much to do at home, more than we can hope to do satisfactorily in the immediate future. Why then