

setting up a duplicate service, and whether they approve of this practice.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The second question strangely resembles the first one, but certainly if the minister can answer it I will allow it.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, no government has done more than this one to eliminate duplication in the government service.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF BILLS RESPECTING CIGARETTE SMOKING AND ADVERTISING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It is related to public health and may possibly lead to some saving of the time of the house. Would the minister consider encouraging the referral of the subject matter of various private members' bills, all dealing with cigarette smoking and advertising, to the committee on health and welfare where the whole matter could be appropriately considered?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I have already agreed to consider the possibility of sending this general subject matter to the committee, and I will be glad to consider whether this particular technique is the most suitable one.

MEDICARE—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE AS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of reports in the last week or so regarding the starting date of medicare which have created in the minds of the people of this country uncertainty, turmoil and doubt, will the Prime Minister issue a statement or assure those interested that no change is contemplated in the original plan to put medicare into effect on July 1, 1968?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): The hon. gentleman should not be disturbed by such reports.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Starr: Then I shall put the direct question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether medicare is to start on July 1, 1968.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, that is so under the law and the legislation we passed, in which no change has been made.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance a supplementary question. Is he trying to discourage the provinces from taking up medicare on July 1, 1968?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is argumentative.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

CALGARY—PROTESTS RESPECTING SHOP LAY-OFFS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to rephrase the question I put earlier to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, and ask him whether he has received a petition or a protest respecting the 400 men who were laid off in Calgary, and whether he will contact his manpower office there to suggest alternate employment for these people. It is a very serious matter.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take this question as notice and answer it tomorrow, if possible.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

ROADS TO RESOURCES—INQUIRY AS TO RESUMPTION OF PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. One month ago, on September 25, I directed a question to the Prime Minister in relation to the government's policy regarding the reinstatement of the roads to resources program. The Prime Minister said he was not in a position to make a statement that day but would look into it right away. In view of the fact that I have been asking this question for two and a half years, and the Prime Minister has indicated that the cabinet have had it under consideration, I wonder if I could get an answer.

Mr. Fairweather: That is not a long time for that cabinet.