

agreements within the ambit of the internal management of that corporation.

Mr. Aiken: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the financial terms of the agreement with Britain are known and have been published, has a money figure been agreed on and can it be announced?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, the financial arrangements under the agreement, the dollar terms, cannot be announced. It is deemed by the corporation that the financial considerations are such as to be really part of the business agreement between the two atomic energy agencies. Therefore it would not be in the interest of the competitive position of A.E.C.L. to disclose financial arrangements.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.—REDUCTION IN FREIGHT AND EXPRESS OPERATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Proposed further cut-backs in employment at North Sydney by the Canadian National will affect freight and express operations. May I ask the minister if he will make representations to the railway and urge that they reconsider their action and not add to the loss of several hundred jobs that has been brought about by the actions of this government and the Canadian National?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has made a representation. I do not think he has asked a question.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, this is a most important matter. Far be it for me to question your wise counsel, sir, but this question has to do with the livelihood of many people. May I submit with the greatest deference that it has been the practice in this house over the years, when there are questions regarding curtailment of C.N.R. operations, the closing of branch lines and stations and the disruptions that have resulted therefrom, to direct those questions to the Minister of Transport. With respect, I am asking a straightforward question and I am not making a representation. I am asking the minister if he will make representations to the Canadian National to see whether the situation I have spoken of can be averted.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has made his representation twice. I can only hope it has been noted that many times.

Inquiries of the Ministry

RESEARCH

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON PROPOSED QUEEN ELIZABETH OBSERVATORY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Minister of Agriculture but in his capacity as Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Some time ago I asked the minister if he would be prepared to table the report of the scientists relative to the Mount Kobau Queen Elizabeth observatory. The minister said he would take the matter under consideration. I have not had an opportunity to determine what decision the minister has arrived at. Will he make the report public?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the suggestion of the hon. member is still under consideration and is being discussed with all parties we feel ought to have a voice in the ultimate decision as to whether this report should be tabled. No decision has yet been arrived at as to whether it would be in the public interest to table this report.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate how long it might take before a conclusion will be reached?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, in parliamentary terms it will be in the not too distant future.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

COUNSEL FOR INDIANS AT CONFERENCES ON AMENDMENT OF ACT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. On September 13 last I asked the minister if the government would consider paying the cost of legal counsel of the Indian people's choice with respect to the consultations going on having to do with amendments to the Indian Act. The minister said he would consider that request. Could he say what decision has been arrived at?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we have considered that possibility but, at the present time, we do not think that it would be appropriate to do so. If, later on, during the second round of negotiations there is a change in the situation, we might reconsider our decision.