

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.—POSSIBLE DISCONTINU-
ANCE OF EXPRESS AND FREIGHT
OPERATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Transport arises as a result of representations I have received and meetings I have had with unions in my area. May I ask the minister if it is the intention of the Canadian National Railways to make further cut-backs in employment and service in the town of North Sydney by discontinuing their express and freight operations in that town?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I hope not, but I will make inquiries.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the hon. member may want to discuss this in the adjournment debate.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to deal with this very important question at the first opportunity on the late, late show.

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

REQUEST OF PROVINCES FOR CONFERENCE
IN CENTENNIAL YEAR

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister and ask him whether, in view of the desire expressed recently by a large number of the provinces to hold a constitutional conference, the Prime Minister will accede to their request by arranging such a conference in our centennial year and calling it the centennial family conference.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Some provinces have also indicated that this would not be the proper time to hold a constitutional conference. Naturally until there is unanimity on this matter, and until preparatory work is done, there would not be much value in holding that kind of conference.

Mr. Starr: In view of press reports that the majority of the provinces have agreed, will the Prime Minister tell us which of the provinces have not agreed?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker, because some of the reports I have received are confidential, naturally I have to give careful consideration to minority rights in this matter.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If the Prime Minister is not yet ready to call a centennial family conference, will his government consider bringing in during this session legislation on family planning?

[Translation]

FINANCE

REPORTED GRANTING OF INTEREST FREE
LOAN TO INDIA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance.

We learn from an official source that the government has just granted an \$11,850,000 loan to India. I would therefore ask the minister this: If interest free loans are made to foreign countries and loans bearing interest are secured from foreign countries, how does he expect to balance the external affairs budget?

Mr. Speaker: I have the impression that this is not a question but an argument.

WATER RESOURCES

PROVINCIAL PARTICIPATION IN PROPOSED
U.S. CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and deals with the next international conference on water and fisheries in Washington. Does the Canadian government intend to invite the provinces to be represented on the five-member delegation Canada is entitled to, since they have offshore jurisdiction and the use of water falls within their jurisdiction?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am not willing to accept all the comments of the hon. member. The federal government also has responsibilities where our waters are concerned, for fish live in them, ships navigate them. Fisheries and navigation, to mention only those, are fields of federal jurisdiction.

As to who will be the members of the Canadian delegation to be sent to Washington, the matter is now being studied jointly by Ottawa and the provinces.