

Committee will have a reference from the House of the estimates of the department and also of Canadian National within a very short time, and I assume any decision members of the committee make in this regard would be conveyed to me.

[Later:]

Mr. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the President of the Privy Council. In view of the fact that when trains Nos. 7 and 8 were taken off no representations to the CTC were provided for in the format adopted, would the President of the Privy Council be prepared to permit the Transport Committee to make a tour of the areas affected so that the communities which are being sadly affected would have an opportunity to make their case to a public body?

[Later:]

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is addressed to the Minister of Transport and also has to do with the cancellation of trains Nos. 7 and 8. Would he tell us if he himself is making representations to Canadian National in an effort to persuade them to reverse that decision in light of the numerous representations being received by members of this House?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I can only reply that I hope hon. members opposite will get over their ambivalence. On the one hand they are asking me to keep my hands off the CNR when it appears desirable to do so, and on the other hand they are asking me to make representations to the railway. I have conveyed to CN on every occasion the representations made to me in this regard, and I feel that is as far as I can go.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that the supplementaries on the first question asked by the hon. member for York-Simcoe have only a distant relationship to the first question. I do not think these questions should be asked as supplementaries. For the moment the Chair will recognize the hon. member for St. John's West.

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.—REFUSAL TO PAY EMPLOYEES UNABLE TO WORK BECAUSE OF SNOW STORM

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport relating to action taken by the CN at St. John's, Newfoundland, whereby they refused to pay 550 of their employees who were unable to go to work because of a severe snow storm. Would the minister have an investigation carried out with a view to correcting the situation?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will make inquiries and I will convey to the hon. member the views of the CN on that matter.

Inquiries of the Ministry

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GEORGES BANK—ISSUE OF OIL DRILLING PERMITS BY CANADA PRIOR TO AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES ON INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that the results of seismic surveys in the Georges Bank area are being compiled, can the minister state if Canada will issue oil drilling permits for the Georges Bank area before an agreement is reached with the United States on the median line issue?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take that question as notice since it is a very technical one.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question at this time. Since Canada's position is well known, our interpretation of the international boundary being the median line, can the minister say what is the United States position?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I will be very happy when answering the first question to give an answer to that also.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRANCE RESPECTING TERRITORIAL LIMIT OFF SOUTH COAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, while we are on this subject may I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he is in a position to report to the House what recent initiatives have been taken with the government of France to resolve our treaty problems with that country with respect to the territorial limit off the south coast of Newfoundland?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would not think this is a supplementary. It might be asked as a related question, but at the moment I believe the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate has a supplementary.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. With great respect I think the question is supplementary, but even if the question is related I think the minister should be allowed to reply to it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is the hon. member's opinion but the Chair has reached a judgment decision, and that is the decision I have made. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate.

GEORGES BANK—CANADIAN RESPONSE TO UNITED STATES POSITION

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I was going to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs what response the Canadian government gave to