

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, what is the reason that the precipitate rush to accept this formula, as evidenced by the remarks of the hon. gentleman when he was Minister of Justice, suddenly changed? What has happened in the interval?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I want to direct a further question to the President of the Privy Council. Did he or did he not say that the question of amendment of the constitution would have to be delayed until after the report of the B and B commission in 1967?

[*Translation*]

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Favreau:** Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the right hon. Leader of the Opposition, I think that in my reply to a question a while ago I promised to table or to put at the disposal of the members of this house a copy of my speech. I even sent the original of my speech a while ago to have photostats made.

[*English*]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, surely the minister knows what he said. I am not asking him all about the area of quotations, about colonialism—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Well, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. A question was asked a moment ago by the hon. member for Edmonton West about whether a report in the newspapers was correct, and that question was ruled out of order. Then the right hon. Leader of the Opposition asked a question which is not the same, a question which the President of the Privy Council says he has answered, and that is as far as he can go. The Leader of the Opposition may not be satisfied with the reply, but he has to accept it according to the rules.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I know that when ministers make statements, however far removed from the truth they may be, they must be accepted.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The right hon. Leader of the Opposition cannot say or suggest that a reply is not true. He can say it is incorrect. There may be a slight distinction.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Nicholas Mandziuk (Marquette):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to that question just answered by the President

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

of the Privy Council with reference to the B and B commission. I should like to ask him or the Prime Minister whether this house will have an opportunity to debate the final report of that Commission when it is received.

**Mr. Pearson:** Yes indeed, Mr. Speaker; this house will have that opportunity.

### CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

#### DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES FOLLOWING REDUCTION IN SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport, of which I have given him notice. Is the minister aware that a considerable number of employees of the Canadian Pacific Railway have been dismissed as a result of the cancellation of C.P.R. trains between Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal, and that some of these employees have had as many as 20 years service with the railway? Will the minister inform the house whether the government has taken steps to find alternative employment for such employees or assist them in any way to re-establish themselves in employment?

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** The appropriate official of the union was good enough to send me a copy of the letter he addressed to the Prime Minister on the subject of the effect on employment of the discontinuance of C.P.R. passenger trains to Toronto. The matter is being looked into very actively at the moment.

Up until now the Prime Minister has not had an opportunity to make a reply.

**Mr. Lewis:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask whether anything has been done for the employees who will be displaced within the next few weeks, because they are exceedingly anxious to know what is going to happen to them. Some of them have reached an age where it will be difficult to find employment elsewhere. Have any steps been taken to assist them in getting alternative employment, and will this question be given further consideration?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Speaker, before attempting to make any reply I would have to have some discussions with my colleague the Minister of Labour, and I think it would be more appropriate for him to reply. However, I will endeavour to get some information to satisfy the hon. member as quickly as possible.