

Northwest Passage, and the minister indicated he would get his slide rule working over the weekend. Can he tell us how well it worked, and how much fuel oil will be required?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this is one of the questions we have asked because there is a difference between the amount of fuel oil the vessel can carry and the amount it will use in making such a trip. We have asked how long the ship is likely to take on the voyage and how much oil it is likely to carry, and as soon as I have received the information I will pass it on to my hon. friend.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

CONDITION OF FALL-OUT SHELTERS

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. In view of the extension of the Safeguard ABM system south of the border by the Americans and the threat of nuclear explosions overhead as a result, with a great likelihood of millions of Canadians being blinded by glare or affected by radiation, why are the fall-out shelters in Toronto neither properly prepared nor marked? I believe the same is true all across Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question is asked in the form of a representation to the minister. I think he has to assume it will be taken into consideration.

Mr. Ryan: Ten o'clock.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

ELIMINATION OF STATIONS IN REMOTE AREAS

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State or for the Acting Secretary of State. Can the hon. gentleman indicate whether there are plans by the department to eliminate a number of CBC radio and television stations in Canada in some of the remote areas, and whether these plans will be finalized tomorrow?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think this is the type of question which could be placed on the Order Paper.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase the question and ask if the Parliamentary Secretary will give an assurance that the

Inquiries of the Ministry

plans afoot to eliminate a number of the CBC stations in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador will be set aside?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I shall bring these representations to the attention of my colleague, the Secretary of State.

GRAIN

WHEAT—CONSULTATION WITH SASKATCHEWAN PREMIER ON BARTER PROPOSAL

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the assertion by the Premier of Saskatchewan that his government is not receiving complete co-operation from the federal government and the Canadian Wheat Board, has the minister or the Wheat Board consulted with the Premier of Saskatchewan regarding his proposal to barter at least 25 million bushels of wheat this year?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have made it perfectly clear to the Premier of Saskatchewan why the transactions he is talking about are not wise and not in the interests of the Canadian farmers.

Mr. Skoberg: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Have the Canadian Wheat Board and the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce overlooked sales opportunities that would be indicated by the Saskatchewan premier's statement?

Mr. Lang: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day. Order, please. I believe the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond is rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege which involves the roster system introduced in this House some time ago by the Prime Minister. In effect, the predetermined absence from the House of ministers could easily be considered a violation of the rights of members to all the necessary facilities for asking questions in this House. In other words, if there is an emergency which any member wishes to clear up, the predetermined absence through the roster system of any minister could very easily mean that the whole picture would change while a member is trying to get the situation clarified or stop an event from taking place.