

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Would the minister check at the same time whether it would be possible to organize a second flight from Montreal to Ottawa, Val-d'Or and Rouyn-Noranda?

[English]

**Mr. Hellyer:** Yes, I shall be glad to check on the level of traffic generated between those two points and determine whether it would justify an additional flight.

**TRADE****SHOES—ALLEGED DUMPING BY COMMUNIST COUNTRIES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South):** In the absence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the statement by members of the shoe industry of Canada that they are unable to surmount the import situation because of lack of federal co-operation and action with respect to dumping by communist countries, what action does the government propose to take in order to relieve this most important industry, which employs many Canadians?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board):** Perhaps I might answer this question, Mr. Speaker. I have some correspondence about this matter on my desk, and I ask the hon. member's permission to take his question as notice. I shall try to answer tomorrow.

**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS****POSSIBLE DISCONTINUANCE OF MAIL TRAIN BETWEEN MONTREAL AND TORONTO**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Raymond Rock (Jacques-Cartier-Lasalle):** My question is for the Minister of Transport. Is the Canadian National thinking of discontinuing the mail train between Montreal and Toronto early next year. If so, why?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I think the hon. member's question might be placed on the order paper.

**CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY****REPLY TO PROTEST RESPECTING LAY-OFFS OF SHOP WORKERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the telegrams that are continuing to come from trade unions that represent Canadian Pacific Railway shop workers, can the minister say whether he has yet had a reply from the Canadian Pacific Railway to his representations concerning the lay-offs between Christmas and New Year's?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The reply in part reads as follows:

National and local union leaders were informed three to five days prior to the closure notices being posted in the three shops, in an effort to give as much advance notice as possible and to explain the reason for the closure.

The employees concerned have been assured that the temporary closure does not involve either the Christmas day holiday or the New Year's day holiday, and, as a result, holiday pay will be granted to all those who qualify.

To qualify for holiday pay under the Canada Labour Standards Code and the collective agreement which applies, an employee must have been in the service of the company for at least 30 calendar days and must have been entitled to wages for at least 15 days in the 30-day period preceding the holiday.

As a result, we believe that nearly all of the employees affected by the temporary shop closures should qualify to receive holiday pay for Christmas day and New Year's day.

**Mr. Knowles:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Was there any reply to the representation that I assume the minister made with respect to the loss of the four days themselves?

**Mr. Hellyer:** So far as I know there has been no reaction to that. Something might have come to my office in the last few hours, but so far as I know I have received nothing directly.

**Mr. Knowles:** Will the minister follow up the matter?

**Mr. Hellyer:** Yes, I shall continue to monitor the situation. I might also add that 22 days' notice was given instead of the four days that are required by the contract. This amount of notice, too, was appreciated and helped to ameliorate the shock of having four days less pay at such a critical time of year.

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister look into the complaints which are being made by many railway workers and determine whether it is a coincidence that the four day lay-off has come at the same time the workers are to receive their

[Mr. Caouette.]