

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The hon. gentleman has correctly stated the situation. He will find that the action to be pursued in the foreseeable future will not be inconsistent with the attitude taken by this government.

HOUSE OF COMMONS**INQUIRY AS TO FRENCH REPORTING AND TRANSLATION STAFFS**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Guy Marcoux (Quebec-Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport as regards the translation and interpretation system that we have in this house. On the 8th of October last I asked him a question to which he gave the following answer:

[Text]

"Seeking to do everything that can possibly be done to meet them"—that is, to meet the difficulties.

[Translation]

I should like to know whether the minister has actually done something to overcome those difficulties.

[Text]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Yes, sir. I did everything I could while I had the capacity to do it.

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. Robert Beaulé (Quebec East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. Does the minister intend to instal an air conditioning system in the centre block, considering that we will soon have to put up with the warm weather of the summer? I think it is an opportune time to find out what the department proposes to do in that connection.

Hon. J. P. Deschatelets (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, such a system is included in the overall plan covering the extensive improvements we intend to carry out in the centre block. However, my hon. friend will understand that no work can be started while the house is sitting. The program will be launched at the first opportunity.

[Text]

VETERANS AFFAIRS**POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF HOSPITALS FROM FEDERAL CONTROL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. Chester MacRae (York-Sunbury): I

should like to direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Is the minister in a position to answer the question I directed to the Prime Minister yesterday in the hon. gentleman's absence? It is to be found on page 3340 of *Hansard*.

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I did read the question very carefully, and I had a word with the Prime Minister. The situation obviously is that in the final sense the government must take its responsibility, and I cannot foresee what the circumstances might be where agreement would not be forthcoming.

Mr. MacRae: A supplementary question. Perhaps the answer could be expressed this way; that if the Royal Canadian Legion and the other veterans organizations do not agree with the transfer of any of the veterans hospitals, the department will still proceed to carry out these transfers?

Mr. Teillet: I did not give that answer at all. May I say the question appears to be completely out of order. It is entirely hypothetical.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**LOSS OF REVENUE FROM NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): I have a question for the Postmaster General. In the light of the hon. gentleman's speech in Montreal, in which he is reported to have said that the main deficit in the accounts of the Post Office Department results from \$22 million lost on the mailing of newspapers and magazines, I should like to know, first of all, why this information was not provided to the house during the discussion of the resolution—

Some hon. Members: It was.

Mr. Scott:—and second, does this mean that the legislation will be revised so the revenue from postage on periodicals and newspapers will be increased by \$27 million in order to cover this loss, rather than attempting to recover it by increased charges on first class mail?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the hon. member put this question on the order paper.

Mr. Scott: I give notice I should like to raise this matter after ten o'clock.

Mr. Pickersgill: I should like to raise a point of order. The hon. member is seeking to debate after ten o'clock a matter which is