

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Saturday, April 30, 1949

The house met at eleven o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—DISCONTINUANCE OF LINE IN OSHAWA

Mr. Arthur Williams (Ontario) moved for leave to introduce a bill respecting the discontinuance of a line of railway by Canadian National Railway Company, in the city of Oshawa, in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the hon. member have leave to introduce the said bill?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): I think I should point out to the house that this is a bill which should not be introduced by a private member. It seeks to indicate a line of conduct to the Canadian National Railways in the city of Oshawa. It is a bill that will require the expenditure of money to implement what is being suggested, and it is contrary to the terms of the British North America Act. With respect and deference, I submit that no private member has the right or privilege to indicate to the Canadian National Railways what it should or should not do.

Mr. Speaker: I have to declare the bill out of order.

INCOME TAX

COMPULSORY SAVINGS—INQUIRY AS TO INTEREST RATES ON REFUNDS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Macdonnell (Muskoka-Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. I have not had an opportunity to give him notice of it, but I think he will be able to answer it later in the morning. The question is with respect to the refunds of compulsory savings that took place last month. Originally the interest rate was set at two per cent, and the amount deducted during 1943, it is represented to me, should have earned interest for five years and two months. I understand it was figured at a flat rate of nine per cent. The 1944 savings were stopped on June 30, 1944, so that interest should be earned there for four years and eight months. In that case I understand that interest has been figured at a flat rate of seven per cent. This complaint is from a small holder who feels that the government has not

played fair. I think it is desirable that the question should be answered. I will give further particulars to the minister if he so desires.

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): I am sure my colleague the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. McCann) will ask his department to look into the matter. Refunds, of course, are made by that department.

PENITENTIARIES

DISTURBANCES AT COLLIN'S BAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): I asked the Minister of Justice a question previously about the riots at the Collin's Bay section of Kingston penitentiary. I should like to know now whether the minister is in a position to give a report on the situation in this institution. Too much secrecy is observed by the officials, and in the interests of order in all these penal institutions I think that a report should be forthcoming.

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): I have no hesitation whatever in making a report. The reason I did not do so before was that it would traverse a good deal of the ground that had already been adequately covered in the press statement that was issued by the commissioner of penitentiaries. In view of the position taken by the member for Lake Centre, perhaps I should read the full text of the interim report which I have from the commissioner, dated April 27, 1949. The text is as follows:

On Easter Monday April 18 a group of convicts at Collin's Bay penitentiary staged a noisy disturbance which resulted in damage to cell equipment and furnishings and to windows estimated at \$900.

A small group in one of the cell blocks commenced to shout and break up their cell furnishings about 4.45 p.m. The demonstration was immediately taken up by some fifty convicts quartered in an adjacent temporary dormitory, most of whom were employed in the steward's department. These convicts proceeded to break up their furniture and the windows in the dormitory and gained possession of a small fire hose in the dormitory, causing some water damage. Additional officers were immediately brought to the scene of the disturbance, and within half an hour the ringleaders of the disturbance were segregated and placed in dissociation cells. The remainder of the convicts involved then obeyed orders and the disturbance subsided. Later, eight convicts in the cell block again began shouting and endeavouring to incite their fellow convicts to continue the demonstration. They were immediately