

Inquiries of the Ministry

of the Soviet delegation; but there again they ought to be pretty carefully examined before we come to any conclusion in regard to them. We have not had much time to look into them and no one as yet is very clear or very confident about the result of this possible change of attitude. Again, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure the house will agree, we should give these proposals on disarmament the same kind of careful consideration that we should give to the new proposals from Korea.

Mr. Graydon: Might I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) a question supplementary to those which have been asked. In connection with sick and wounded prisoners of war on both sides, what do the Chinese and North Koreans propose to do about those sick and wounded prisoners of war who do not want to be repatriated back behind the iron curtain?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I would not like to go into that. For one reason, in the exchange of correspondence there is no reference to that matter at all. It is just a question of exchange of sick and wounded, and the question of whether that is to be voluntary or involuntary was not mentioned in the correspondence. I do not think it would be desirable for us to bring the matter up here.

The principle of voluntary repatriation has, however, been recognized to some extent in the communication of March 30, where the communist statement does use the word "insist". It says, "Those prisoners who insist upon being repatriated". Others would possibly go to a neutral state. The same language, however, was not used in regard to sick and wounded.

RADIO BROADCASTING**INQUIRY AS TO PERSONNEL DISPLACED BY
ABOLITION OF LICENCE FEE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I would like to address a question to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier), and I apologize for giving him notice only ten minutes ago. In view of press reports that about 115 civil service positions are being abolished because the Department of Transport is discontinuing the collection of radio licence fees, and in view of the fact, as I have been informed, that a number of these employees have received separation notices—which I understand is a civil service diplomatic term for "roll your blankets and hit the trail"—would the minister kindly

inform the house what has been done to find positions for those displaced civil servants?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): I will be glad to answer. My recollection is that there were 138 employees of the department affected by the abolition of the \$2.50 licence fee. My recollection is, and I speak of course from memory, that of that group a very small number resigned. Another group were separated because of married women's status. The very large majority of them were placed in positions either in the Department of Transport or, through the co-operation of other departments and the civil service commission, in other departments of government. My recollection is that thus far there are only 17 people without employment.

FEDERAL GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES**INQUIRY AS TO PAYMENT TO ST. JOHN'S,
NEWFOUNDLAND**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. J. Browne (St. John's West): I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) regarding a statement made by him when we were considering the supplementary estimates on March 27 and about which there appears to have been some misunderstanding. Is he in a position to state the exact amount of the grant which will go to the city of St. John's, Newfoundland?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): Yes, I will be happy to answer. Apparently there was some misunderstanding in the reply to the question of the member for St. John's West (Mr. Browne). The position is that under the Municipal Grants Act the city of St. John's, Newfoundland, will in this current year, the year which ended on March 31, 1953, receive a total of \$51,527. That amount is made up of \$48,184, being taxes in respect of admiralty properties which are occupied by the crown, \$2,543 in lieu of real property taxes, and \$800 in lieu of local improvement taxes.

FISHERIES**INQUIRY AS TO METHOD OF MARKETING
NEWFOUNDLAND SALTED COD**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. Watson MacNaught (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Fisheries): Yesterday the hon. member for St. John's East asked me if I could state what the situation will be this year with respect to the normal markets for Newfoundland salt codfish. At that time I said that I expected to be able to make a statement today.