

persuasion such as his colleague the Minister of Finance does in dealing with the banks? Will he discuss this matter with the Railway Express Association to find out why they feel this increase is necessary before it becomes a *fait accompli*, some time after June 19?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am in reasonably constant touch with both the railways concerned. I might point out to the hon. member that more than 50 per cent of the traffic affected, if my figures are correct, is carried by truck. Of course, we do not have very much more than moral suasion, to which he referred, in regard to the trucking industry, but I would be glad to meet with them on the subject to see what can be done about it.

* * *

PUBLIC SERVICE

SUGGESTED RESIGNATION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the statements contained in the annual report of the Public Service Commission and the statements made by the chairman of that commission before a committee of this House indicating an emasculation of the merit system, is it the intention of the Prime Minister to request the resignation of the chairman of the commission?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it would be in order for me to comment on what is happening before a committee of the House. The hon. member might refer to the act, where he will find that the chairman of the commission is an officer of Parliament and can be removed only on a joint address by both Houses. The hon. member or his party might want to initiate that procedure; this government does not.

* * *

HEALTH AND WELFARE

REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF PROGRAM "NEW HORIZONS FOR THE AGED"

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Will the details of the program entitled New Horizons for the Aged be announced before the end of this month?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I would hope so, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

ENERGY

POSSIBLE PIPELINE THROUGH EASTERN ARCTIC—ASSURANCE OF MAJORITY CANADIAN OWNERSHIP—HYPOTHECATION OF GAS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of

Inquiries of the Ministry

Energy, Mines and Resources arising out of his comment on a television program to the effect that he would prefer to see majority Canadian ownership of pipelines tapping northern gas reserves. My question is about the proposed pipeline in respect of which Panarctic Oil is now doing aerial reconnaissance. Has the government any plans to ensure that such a pipeline, if and when it is built, will have majority Canadian ownership?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think the same objective should apply in respect of a pipeline through the eastern Arctic as to one through the Mackenzie Valley. As the hon. member knows, all that is being done at the moment is photographic reconnaissance of a possible route.

• (1520)

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, in view of the statement of Mr. Heatherington, the president of Panarctic, that market considerations would indicate that this gas, if Panarctic brings it down from the north, would go to the United States, I ask the minister if this is government policy and does the government intend to have this gas hypothecated to the United States, in view of the statement of the National Energy Board that as of June 30 last there was a deficit of—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are running short of time and hon. members should try to limit the length of questions.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, government policy is as stated in the National Energy Board Act: that the actual export of any particular quantity should be determined by the board. Of course it is the board's decision to determine whether the TENNECO agreement, which is the one the hon. member is referring to, should be carried out or whether the gas should remain in Canada.

PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—INQUIRY AS TO APPLICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a brief supplementary. I should like to ask the minister whether the government has yet received an application from any company or consortium for the construction of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): We hear a great deal, Mr. Speaker, from the bush telegraph on this question, but I think I am right in saying that neither myself, the National Energy Board nor my colleague the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, has received any formal application at the moment.