

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO ALLEGED DISTORTION OF NEWS AND BROADCASTING OF PROPAGANDA

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. Would the minister give consideration to setting up either a special committee of the House or a royal commission to look into the repeated allegations of bias, distortion of news, and out-right propagandizing by the public affairs department of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation? I ask this question in view of the fact that this matter has been brought up many times in the House—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the question has often been asked, and I have given it the only answer possible to which I refer the hon. member.

[English]

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the government house leader, the President of the Privy Council. Would he prevail upon the Secretary of State or perhaps somebody else in the government ranks to organize the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts, which this late in the session has not yet been organized, so that the CBC and many other topical points of interest could be referred to that committee, including the matter of AM and FM networks?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to consider this suggestion.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Will you allow witnesses?

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**POWER**

SKAGIT RIVER—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PREVENT FLOODING OF VALLEY

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Will the minister indicate to the House the steps which have been taken or will be taken by the federal government to stop the proposed flooding of the Skagit River Valley?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps the minister might like to reply briefly to the question, but the hon. member, it seems to me, is asking for a general statement and so the question is hardly in order. In view of the importance of the matter raised perhaps the House might consent to allow the minister to make a brief reply to the hon. member's question.

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, I have arranged a visit to Washington on Friday of this week. I will be accompanied by officials of the Department of External Affairs and of my own department.

[Mr. Lessard.]

**INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY**

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State. In view of reports that the government is planning to provide \$5 million for the country of Niger on the understanding that French will be made the official language of that country, would the government consider making the amount \$10 million and making that country bilingual?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**

REDUCTION OF PASSENGER SERVICE IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

**Mr. B. Keith Penner (Thunder Bay):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport but in his absence may I direct it to his Parliamentary Secretary. I should like to know if the Minister of Transport will use the influence of his office to dissuade Canadian National Railways from reducing its passenger service across northern Ontario by 50 per cent as a result of its decision to cancel trains Nos. 7 and 8?

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. McGrath:** Remember the Newfie Bullet. Shame!

**Mr. Gérard Duquet (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to bring this matter to the attention of the minister.

**Mr. Penner:** When the Parliamentary Secretary is discussing this matter with the minister, would he also urge the minister to instruct the Railway Transport Committee to conduct a form of public hearing into this cancellation, so that the citizens and the communities affected may know—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster.

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**NATIONAL DEFENCE**

DESTROYER CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM—ADDITIONAL COST

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister say when he will have official figures ready on the spillage taking place in the ship-building program on the St. Lawrence?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I think the word should be "slippage". I expect they will be available to the House by the middle of next month. I would hope to have an opportunity of discussing this matter in more detail with the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence.

**Mr. Bell:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a personal question of the minister. Has he had to have his seat moved next to that of the former Minister of National Defence so that he may learn how to wreck what is left of the department?