

Inquiries of the Ministry

on to me, for which I take no responsibility other than merely passing it on, because I do think it is of great interest to these people. I understand the coal operators made certain representations to the Canadian Pacific Railway to the effect that this increase of 25 cents a ton in freight rates would jeopardize their Japanese contracts, and they asked for six months' delay in order to make certain proposals to the railway for improving the whole situation and the turn around at Vancouver. The Canadian Pacific Railway has acceded to this request and has decided not to put the increase into operation for another six months.

Mr. Woolliams: I thank the minister very much.

NOVA SCOTIA—SUBVENTIONS ON COAL SOLD TO ONTARIO HYDRO

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. M. Benidickson (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, may I reply to a question asked by the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria, as recorded at page 12025 of *Hansard* for last Friday in which he asked whether there were any extensions of coal assistance with respect to eastern Canada.

Subvention assistance on Canadian coal under regulations prescribed by the governor in council was authorized by this house for a period of five years in supplementary estimates B passed on November 27, 1964. The regulations applicable have no expiry date and will continue, as in the past, to provide assistance on the movement of Nova Scotia coal to consumers in the competitive area, including the Ontario hydro commission.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

HONG KONG VETERANS—INQUIRY AS TO SURVEY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. Chester MacRae (York-Sunbury): I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. I have given him notice. It deals with the position of veterans who were prisoners of war of the Japanese in Hong Kong. Would the minister advise us whether the survey undertaken on behalf of those veterans, which was expected to be completed by the end of February, is yet available?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I will have to inquire. Perhaps I could report to the hon. member on Monday.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REQUEST FOR INCREASED SALARIES FOR PROTECTIVE STAFF

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to address a question to the President of the Privy Council. Can the hon. gentleman inform the house when the government intends to raise the salaries of members of the protective staff of this house so they may receive salaries at least equal to those received by the secretaries?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council): The question may be one for Your Honour to deal with, but perhaps I could answer it in my capacity as a member of the internal economy commission.

The cyclical pay review of the civil service group "D" is now being worked on. The report from the pay research bureau of the civil service commission affecting that group should be received by the treasury board about April 1. This would mean, after all the necessary steps have been taken under the Civil Service Act by way of interviews with the appropriate associations and so on, that a decision concerning pay changes affecting civil servants in group "D" would be announced by about July 1. The usual practice is that the protective staff and certain other groups in the House of Commons would be dealt with immediately afterward in relation to that group "D" examination. I might add that any pay increases in group "D" would be retroactive to October 1, 1964.

LETTER RESPECTING ALLEGED FRAUDULENT VOTING IN B.C.

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Robert Beaulé (Quebec East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the President of the Privy Council.

Is the minister aware that one Mr. Brown, a resident of British Columbia, sent a letter to the chairman of the committee on privileges and elections, pointing out that certain irregularities would have occurred during the last electoral campaign in the riding of Burnaby-Coquitlam; if so, does he intend to refer this letter to the judge of the commission which is investigating this matter?

[*Text*]

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I know nothing about this matter, but I will look into it at once.