

**Mr. Trudeau:** Surely, Mr. Speaker, even in the circumstances outlined by the hon. member one cannot change the provisions of the BNA Act which state that certain areas of labour and industrial relations are under provincial jurisdiction.

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[Translation]

#### OLYMPIC GAMES

##### PROPOSED INTEREST FREE FEDERAL LOAN FOR FINANCING GAMES

**Mr. René Matte (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

The Quebec minister responsible for the Olympic Games gave a press conference recently and it seems he was not aware that the federal government could grant interest free loans. Would the minister tell the House whether the federal government could do within Canada what it does already for many foreign countries, namely grant interest free loans?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, there are no such things as interest free loans. When we grant loans, the government itself has to borrow the money from the taxpayers. If the interest is not paid by the beneficiary, it is paid by the taxpayers generally. I do not know if that is what the hon. member advocates: a loan to the Olympic Games that would be paid back by the Canadian taxpayers generally. If so, he should say so clearly.

● (1450)

**Mr. Matte:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary.

The explanation which has just been given by the Prime Minister is similar to that of Mr. Goldbloom, but as it happens I do not accept it. Does the Prime Minister suggest that this money must be borrowed to be lent interest free? If so, could he tell the House where the government is now borrowing money to lend it interest free to foreign countries?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I can merely give an example. Last month, the Canadian government borrowed through Canada saving bonds a considerable amount on which it had to pay interest of about 9¼ per cent.

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[English]

#### CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

##### PROPOSED LAY-OFFS IN CAPE BRETON—REQUEST FOR REPORT

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. On November 27 and again on December 3 I posed questions to the minister with regard to lay-offs of Canadian National Railways personnel in the Atlantic region, with particular reference to Cape Breton. At that time I asked if he would approach CNR and have them declare a moratorium on

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further lay-offs. Is the minister in a position to provide a report to the House today as a result of his discussions with CNR?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** I can only say that CNR has indeed laid off employees in various parts of the country when the work and the volume of traffic have justified it. I will not try to second guess CN on that.

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[Translation]

#### COMMUNICATIONS

##### ALLEGED REFUSAL OF BELL CANADA TO PROVIDE SERVICE—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

**Mr. Bernard Loiselle (Chambly):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

Since Bell Canada has been denying for six months any kind of phone service to an increasing number of new householders on the southern shore of the St. Lawrence in Montreal and since the company put down that denial to a lack of manpower, would the minister ask the president of the Canadian Transport Commission to inquire of that company and make it formally undertake to provide that service within a reasonable time?

[English]

**Mr. Jim Fleming (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to bring that request to the attention of the Minister of Communications.

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#### POST OFFICE

##### REASON FOR DELAY IN SUPPLYING MAIL BOXES TO FORT MACLEOD

**Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the question put by the hon. member for Lethbridge to the Postmaster General. In view of the fact that the postmaster in Fort Macleod made application for a block of new post office boxes over two years ago, and residents of Fort Macleod not only cannot have their mail delivered but cannot even rent a post office box, would the Postmaster General give immediate consideration to the request made by the postmaster in Fort Macleod in view of the fact that Fort Macleod is experiencing rapid growth?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear that Fort Macleod is experiencing rapid growth and in recognition of that fact I will find out why it is taking so long to supply extra mail boxes. It could be that the building needs expansion to accommodate them. But I will report back to the hon. gentleman tomorrow.