

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

the Indians. He does not want any delay. They have a high rate of illness and there are more Indians in hospital than whites because of lack of housing.

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

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**FINANCE**

AMOUNT OF BORROWINGS BY GOVERNMENT IN 1971—  
ABILITY OF PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES TO  
BORROW IN CANADA

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** On Wednesday last, as recorded at page 3242 of *Hansard*, I asked the Minister of Finance a question regarding his statement to the provincial premiers in conference that if they needed more money they should go out and borrow it. His reply was that the government will be borrowing \$2 billion to pour into the economy this year. Is that \$2 billion in addition to the \$1.5 billion which the government will be required to borrow for refunding purposes to meet maturing obligations? Does this mean the government will be borrowing this year \$3.5 billion?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Yes, it is \$2 billion new money.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** May I ask the minister whether he considers that it will be possible for the provincial and municipal governments to borrow in the Canadian market if the federal government is going to borrow \$3.5 billion, or will the provinces and municipalities be required to go to the United States market despite the advice by the Minister of Finance that they should refrain from doing so?

**Mr. Benson:** I think that there will be ample funds in the Canadian market to take care of \$2 billion in borrowings by the federal government plus the legitimate requirements of the provinces.

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**TRANSPORT**

## TORONTO—STUDY OF RAIL COMMUTER SERVICES

**Mr. John Roberts (York-Simcoe):** I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Has the government decided to initiate studies into the provision of rail commuter services north of Toronto?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. On Wednesday I agreed with the chairman of Metropolitan Toronto that the Department of Trans-

[Mr. Muir.]

port would take the initiative in conjunction with my colleague who is responsible for housing and urban affairs with a view to determining what further rationalization may be possible in terms of the rail lines leading into Toronto to see whether these can be employed for commuter purposes.

**Mr. Roberts:** Can the minister give some indication of when he expects these studies to be completed?

**Mr. Jamieson:** No, Mr. Speaker. The first phase is simply to devise a mechanism through which these studies can be undertaken. We will be discussing them with the railways, the province of Ontario and the various municipalities concerned, but a start will be made almost immediately.

[Later:]

**Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to a previous one and it is directed to the minister in charge of housing. Has he set forth any moneys in the CMHC budget to acquire or hold lands to help relieve the transportation problem that the Minister of Transport has referred to regarding Toronto?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, there is no precise authority within the Act for that to be done. As my colleague, the Minister of Transport, has indicated, it is a matter to which we are beginning to address ourselves. There are other areas of Canada which have shown an interest in this matter and in the context of setting proper urban objectives we will not exclude it from consideration.

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**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**

REDUCTION OF PASSENGER SERVICE IN NORTHERN ONTARIO—SUGGESTED HOLDING OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BY TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

**Mr. Gaétan-J. Serré (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport relating to rail services in Northern Ontario. Following the strong representations by all Northern Ontario M.P.'s requesting that the Transport Committee hold public hearings in northern Ontario in order to assess the implications of the CNR's decision to reduce its passenger service and in order to study the whole question of rail services, is the minister now prepared to say whether he will authorize the committee to hold such hearings?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, far be it from me to say what I can authorize the committee to do. Surely the committees of the House are pretty well autonomous in this regard. The Transport