

Minister is in a position to say what the government is doing in this regard.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to have been so long in dealing with this question. I ask my right hon. friend if he will give me a few more hours. I may be able to make a statement about it tomorrow. It was my impression that I had said something about this since that time, but I should like to look into it.

TRANSPORT

MOVEMENT OF GRAIN AND COAL TO WEST COAST

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport which relates to Canada's reputation as a reliable grain exporter. I believe the minister said they had set up a Pacific grain transportation committee to investigate why grain was not moving off the prairies to Vancouver. I wonder if he can now give us the report on what that committee ascertained.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): This committee was not conducting an inquest into what had or had not happened, but was to expedite the movement of grain through Vancouver. The figures for the last two months show they have been extraordinarily successful in doing that. I have a report on my desk upstairs, and I will be glad to give more details to the hon. member.

Mr. Woolliams: May I ask a supplementary question. In view of the minister's statement would he now have the committee look into the question of the export of coal? Are we losing our coal markets as we lost our grain markets?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Woolliams: May I put this supplementary question. Will this committee look into the question of the transportation and export of coal from Alberta?

Mr. Pickersgill: No, Mr. Speaker, but the minister will.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

LEGISLATION ON ORDER PAPER BEFORE EASTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question

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Inquiries of the Ministry

to the Prime Minister. Will any legislation which the government proposes to place before parliament regarding pensions, the Canada Assistance Plan and medicare be on the order paper before Easter?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I cannot answer that question specifically at the moment, Mr. Speaker. I would hope that would be the case, but I cannot give any more specific answer than that.

Mr. Knowles: A supplementary question. Will the Prime Minister try to give an answer within the next few days?

Mr. Pearson: I will do my very best.

[Translation]

PUBLIC SERVICE

REQUEST FOR POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT ON BILINGUALISM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

Further to his meeting with representatives of federal civil servants yesterday with respect to a bonus for bilingualism, is the Prime Minister in a position to make a statement this afternoon?

[English]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman's description of the meeting was somewhat inaccurate. It was a meeting with the representatives of the civil service organizations to discuss with them the question of bilingualism in the civil service. All I can say in regard to that meeting is that we had a most useful, and I thought constructive, exchange of views which will help the government in the policies which it will be putting forward to the house shortly in regard to this matter.

Mr. Allard: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the Prime Minister consider that there will also be an opportunity to offer the bonus to leaders of political parties, to members of this house and of the other place—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

HOUSING

LOANS TO TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS FOR RESIDENCE CONSTRUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister