

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Minister of Transport. I hope he has not been too busy with his new duties to provide an answer to my question of April 18 with respect to the future of Bill C-182 and the Maritime Freight Rates Act. I hope the minister can answer the question, in order to alleviate the fears of shippers in the maritimes.

**Hon. James Richardson (Acting Minister of Housing):** Mr. Speaker, the government has introduced legislation in the form of Bill C-182 which has received first reading in the house, the purpose of which is to extend the freeze on rail freight rates until March 23, 1970. Provisions are made in the bill to compensate the railways for extending the freeze on their rates.

**Mr. Bell:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the government house leader indicate when this bill is to come forward. There seemed to be a great rush a few days ago to bring it on.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I could do that if I had some indication as to when we will finish with Bill C-150.

**Mr. Bell:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. We gave an assurance in this house, which is indelibly recorded in *Hansard*, that we will pass this freight rates bill post haste, as soon as it is brought on. The government has held it up on three or four occasions.

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT****FARM PRESS RATE INCREASES**

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. I welcome him back from his western think-out. My question is based on information that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has finally been granted an audience with members of the government. Can the minister advise if he or an acting minister gave any assurance that sympathetic consideration would be given to representations made on behalf of the farm press of this country which is now suffering from postal rate increases which are, in some instances, as high as 2,000 per cent.

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I did attend a meeting. I was accompanied by my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, and we were able, at that time to discuss the problem quite fully. Since that time I have written a number of letters to individual papers suggesting

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they do come under a different classification. I understand they are quite happy.

**EXTENSION OF SECOND CLASS RATE TO COMMUNIST PUBLICATIONS**

**Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Can the Postmaster General explain why the department has lifted the second class mailing privileges of the Canadian Legion magazine?

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General):** Because it represents the interests of a very important, but still a particular group.

**Mr. McIntosh:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister explain why his department, while lifting second class privileges from legitimate labour union publications, has granted such privileges to a whole string of communist and subversive publications, such as *Canadian Tribune*, *Communist Viewpoint*, *Combat*, *American Exile in Canada*?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is asking a question—

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Woolliams:** What about *Playboy*?

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

**PUBLIC SERVICE****SUPERANNUATED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES—REQUEST FOR INCREASED PENSIONS**

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that within the past few days the International Nickel Company of Canada and Imperial Oil Limited have announced plans for increasing the pensions of their retired employees, will the Prime Minister, as head of the government, expedite the cabinet's consideration of the question of increasing the pensions of retired public servants?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** We are proceeding according to plan, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact the President of the Treasury Board indicated on January 8 to an organization representing these people that there would be a report within a few weeks, can the Prime Minister say when there will be a statement as to the progress that has been made?