

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Because of the furor which has been going on I am not sure whether I should answer the hon. member or some of the comments from the other side. They got mixed up and I did not hear the question.

Mr. Speaker: I would think that if the minister did not hear the question the hon. member should repeat it briefly—or what is left of the question period will be taken up by the hon. member's repeated question.

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, my question specifically was: What action has been taken, or is intended to be taken, by the Department of Transport in connection with making available rail beds for commuter transport purposes, either by passing legislation or proposing amending legislation?

Mr. Speaker: Order. My understanding is that the hon. member's question asks whether legislation will be introduced, and in those terms the question is acceptable.

An hon. Member: A supplementary question—

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): May I answer the first question first. All this discloses is that the suggestion which occasionally comes from the other side that these questions are planted is clearly not true; otherwise, I would have a better answer for the hon. member. I can only say that we have had discussions with both the province of Ontario and Canadian National. The question really revolves around whether or not a private line of the kind to which the hon. member refers can in fact be assigned the running rights of a common carrier. I will try to get a more explicit answer for the hon. member later.

TORONTO METRO TRANSPORTATION CENTRE

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Transport whether he can inform the House what is delaying the development of the Toronto metro transportation centre.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, could we go back to the time before the motion when the other side was asking questions!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jamieson: Obviously, the competence and incisiveness of the members on this side is far superior. The metro centre really involves a great many private enterprise organizations and the government's role in the centre is essentially peripheral, if I understand it correctly. We are now having negotiations with Canadian National and Canadian Pacific. I believe a group from Canadian National is in Toronto this weekend and is carrying on negotiations with various parties.

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UNITED NATIONS

CANADIAN POSITION ON ADMISSION OF PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Secretary of

[Mr. Speaker.]

State for External Affairs or his Parliamentary Secretary. Considering that today the government of Canada was to make a statement at the United Nations with respect to the China question, I wonder whether the Acting Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary can inform the House what position the government will take on the China question?

Mr. André Ouellet (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to indicate to the House that Ambassador Beaulne has been speaking in the general debate today, and has expressed the view that Canada will vote in favour of the seating of the representatives of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations. In expressing this view he said it is clear that if, in our judgment, continued support of this important resolution could in the future frustrate the will of the General Assembly, the Canadian government will then change its position on the resolution.

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INDUSTRY

PHILIPS ELECTRONICS—EFFECT OF LOSS OF CAR
RADIO CONTRACT

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Is the government aware that Philips Electronics Industries Limited have lost a multi-million dollar contract for car radios with the Chrysler Corporation, which could result in the closing of the company's car radio division?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will realize that it is not in order simply to ask whether the minister is aware or is not aware of a particular situation. That, in itself, is not a complete question and it cannot be put in those terms.

Mr. Badanai: Then may I rephrase the question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister any plans to keep this industry going and prevent its closing?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are aware that Chrysler has given this contract to Motorola of the United States. However, my department, in its usual capacity of defender of the common good, has been in touch with the companies involved and Chrysler has agreed to give a part of the contract to Philips in order to help that company adapt to the new situation. My officers also had conversations with Motorola of the United States, and they have assured us they will do all that is possible to place contracts with the Canadian branch of Motorola in Midland, Ontario. It is even possible that some industrial development might be generated from these events.