

Inquiries of the Ministry

best efforts and give some leadership in co-operation with the provinces in preventing the pollution of international and inland rivers and lakes.

THE PRIME MINISTER**EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY ON DEATH
OF MOTHER**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, all of us are very conscious of the reason the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) is not with us today. At this sad time for him, I would ask the Acting Prime Minister if he will convey to the Prime Minister the deep and sincere sympathy of the members of the official opposition in the loss of one who has meant so much to him over so many years.

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the C.C.F.-New Party group may I say that we should like to be associated with the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition. I am sure our thoughts go out to the Prime Minister, to Mr. Elmer Diefenbaker and the other relatives at this time of their great loss. We realize that the Prime Minister and his mother remained very close until the end. I am sure we speak for all Canada in expressing to the Prime Minister our deepest sympathy at this time of bereavement.

Hon. Howard C. Green (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Prime Minister will be highly appreciative of these thoughtful remarks by the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Assiniboia. This is indeed a very sad time for the Prime Minister, but at the same time I am sure he has very many happy memories and derives a great deal of comfort from the wonderful relationship which existed between his mother and himself. We are very, very grateful to hon. members for their expressions of sympathy this afternoon.

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, may I make a suggestion, which I put forward in all humility. The office of prime minister is of the utmost importance; the mother of the prime minister is pretty wonderful too. I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether, out of respect for the Prime Minister and his mother, on the occasion of her funeral next Wednesday the house might adjourn. Perhaps we might adjourn during those hours out of respect to her memory and to honour the office of prime minister.

Mr. Green: I appreciate the thought behind the suggestion made by the hon. member for [Mr. Herridge.]

Vancouver East, but I think the Prime Minister would wish the house to carry on with its business and would not wish a course of this kind to be followed.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**INQUIRY AS TO PROTESTS AGAINST INTENDED
LAY-OFFS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Has the minister received a letter from Mr. W. Danyk, secretary treasurer of the Canadian National Railways system employees' local federation of Edmonton, Alberta, in which he strongly protests the nation-wide lay-offs of employees scheduled to be implemented on March 17, 1961 by the Canadian National Railways? If so, is the minister of the opinion that this drastic action contemplated by the C.N.R. is contrary to the assurances of reinstatement of employment given by the minister during the discussion of Bill No. C-45?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the letter referred to by the hon. member. I will check with my office, and if I have received such a letter I will at once communicate its contents to the management of the C.N.R., which is the course open to me in this circumstance.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's answer, and I might tell him that his name is the first one listed on the copy that was sent to me. Has this matter previously been brought to the attention of the minister? Is he aware of any impending move by the C.N.R. to institute this kind of wholesale lay-off?

Mr. Balcer: No, Mr. Speaker.

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING
CORPORATION****TELEVISIONING OF BIG FOUR FOOTBALL GAMES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue, arising out of the awarding of a contract to a private station to televise the Big Four football games. It is now being stated that stations such as CFCJ-TV at the lakehead are doubtful whether they will carry the games this year.

My question is, will the minister look into this matter, which is causing considerable concern, and report to the house whether the Big Four football games will be available to stations which previously carried these football telecasts either through C.B.C. outlets or C.B.C. affiliated stations?