Inquiries of the Ministry

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

EDMONTON HUMP YARD—SUGGESTED LIMITATION ON HOURS OF OPERATION

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Would the minister see to it that the Canadian National hump yard in the Calder, Athlone, Lauderdale and the Elm Park areas of the city of Edmonton be prohibited from operating between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. because of the noise factor which unduly distresses the worthy residents of these areas?

Mr. Speaker: That of course is representation. Order, please. Is the hon, member rising on a point of order?

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, I gave notice of this question to the Minister of Transport, and I hoped to receive an answer for those poor senior citizens and residents in this area who would like to have this whole Calder yard transferred to the constituency of Edmonton Strathcona, where it would not do any harm.

FINANCE

EFFECT OF VALUE OF DOLLAR ON GRAIN PRICES—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the par value of the dollar is having an adverse effect on grain prices, has the minister any plans to alleviate the very considerable crisis created because of the extremely low prices received by the Canadian farmer?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, prior to the new situation that arose when the pound was floated, the banks had taken action to lower their rate of interest on short-term money and certificates of deposit. That has had the effect of making short-term money rates less attractive in Canada and has affected the rate of exchange beneficially as it has gone down by one point. As I said to the House earlier, I will be talking to the provinces during the next few weeks to inquire about their foreign borrowing requirements and see if I can prevail upon them to orchestrate those requirements a little better.

SUGGESTED CANCELLATION OF CORPORATION AND PERSONAL INCOME TAXES TO STIMULATE BUSINESS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Since the increase in corporation and personal income taxes which were due to take place on January 1, next, would greatly reduce the effectiveness of the reduction in corporation tax as applied to the manufacturing industry, is the minister giving consideration to cancelling these two tax increases so that business in Canada will be encouraged as much as possible to expand its operations immediately?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the corporate tax relating to that part of the business community most affected and vulnerable to international competition, namely manufacturers and processors, was cut by 20 per cent effective January 1. That will be of immense value in achieving the results that I know the hon. member desires.

• (1430)

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I agree, of course, with what the minister said. May I point out again that these tax increases greatly reduce the effect—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member had the floor for that purpose, but he was making a speech. The hon. member should ask his supplementary.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is as follows: Has the minister's doctor not told him that it is dangerous to keep his head in the sand so much of the time these days?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

INTERVIEW OF BERNADETTE DEVLIN ON FRENCH NETWORK—POSITION OF GOVERNMENT

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask a question to the hon. Secretary of State but, as he is absent, I shall direct it to the Prime Minister.

Recently, Miss Bernadette Devlin, Member of Parliament for Northern Ireland, was invited by the French network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and she said she received high fees to give marxist opinions on the world revolution which would settle the problem of Ireland and Quebec, and this by violence.

As a taxpayer and as an hon. member, I should like to know when the government will ask the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to refrain from inviting undesirable persons from other countries who come to Canada to pollute our airwaves and preach revolution and violence.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State has indicated on several occasions that he was referring to the Crown corporation representations such as those made by the hon. member, but I think the Progressive Conservative party itself would object if the minister intervened too often and too directly in the internal decisions of the corporation.