

Inquiries of the Ministry

(Translation):

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYSOTTAWA—REQUIREMENTS OF CONCESSIONAIRE
RESPECTING BILINGUAL EMPLOYEES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport):

Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Caron) put to me the following question:

Is the minister aware of the fact that a concessionary at the Ottawa railway station forbids his employees to speak French under penalty of losing their job?

I brought that matter to the knowledge of the Canadian National Railways authorities who inform me that inquiry was made of the concessionary at the Union station and that the latter told them that such instructions had not been issued.

I must add that according to the concessionary, most employees in the restaurant and the newspaper stand are bilingual and no trouble was ever experienced in that regard.

[Later:]

Mr. Alexis Caron (Hull): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. Could he tell me whether the inquiry was made of the employees as well as of the employers, because I have been advised since, that the same person had even refused to display certain French papers?

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member who asked the question is taking responsibility for the statement it would be proper, I should think, to pursue it, but the answer that has been received was in response to a similar question and was quite definite.

Mr. Caron: I am taking responsibility for what I am saying because of the answer to the question I asked the other day. I think the inquiry has not been completed.

(Translation):

Mr. Balcer: Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned, the Canadian National authorities have made an investigation following the question asked by my hon. friend. I had requested an inquiry and I have just read the short report received on this subject.

Of course, I have not made this investigation myself since it is not for me to do it. My job is to transmit them the various questions asked in this house.

Mr. Caron: Another supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to blame the minister, but could he not ask for a more thorough inquiry to be conducted among the employees?

Mr. Balcer: Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

[Mrs. Fairclough.]

(Text):

TRADEREPORTED U.S. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
FOR REDUCED TARIFFS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River): I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister seen the dispatch by the Ottawa correspondent of the *Regina Leader-Post* which quotes a new report by a United States Senate committee under the chairmanship of Democratic Senator Magnuson recommending that the United States reduce international trade barriers, and recommending also an extension of tariff negotiating authority to the president, with a provision permitting across the board reductions? If so, does the Prime Minister stand ready to participate in any such negotiations and reductions?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the particular news item has not been brought to my attention. I do not want to enter into a discussion of a conjectural article.

TRANSPORTKETTLE VALLEY RAILWAY—SUGGESTED USE
OF RIGHT OF WAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold Hicks (Fraser Valley): I should like very much to make this inquiry of the Minister of Public Works, in view of the fact that the C.P.R. is planning to permanently abandon the Kettle Valley railway from Brodie to Hope, British Columbia, a distance of 50 miles. If permission to do this is granted, would it be possible for this government to turn this right of way, which I believe has been subsidized federally, into a highway making a fifth route through the Coast range to the glorious Fraser valley?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Before the minister replies may I say this. I think the hon. member who raised the matter indicated that it was a hypothetical question, because he prefaced it by the words "if permission is granted". It seems to me it will be time enough to inquire if and when it has been settled that there will be an abandonment.

TRANS-CANADA AIR LINESPRAIRIE PROVINCES—INQUIRY AS TO
INTERCITY SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. W. Brunsdon (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. The minister is aware of the growing