

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

he must refrain from giving personal opinions or conclusions.

**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**

## OTTAWA—REQUEST FOR BILINGUAL TRAIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Bernard Dumont (Bellechase):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Transport whether, in Ottawa, the beautiful capital of Canada, the official in charge of train schedules who calls the times of arrival and departure in English only could not also do it in French, the other official language?

**Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as I am a member of a government which has accomplished so much for the cause of bilingualism, I shall be pleased to forward the request of the hon. member for Bellechasse to the authorities of the Canadian National Railways.

(Text):

**POSTAL SERVICE**

## NOVA SCOTIA—RESULTS OF CHANGES IN RAILWAY SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Malcolm MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** I should like to address a question to the Postmaster General. In view of representations from the railway mail clerks association in the province of Nova Scotia that changes are proposed in the railway and postal service of that province, I should like to ask the minister if she would assure the house that these changes would not result in inferior service in relation to the recently inaugurated rail liner mail service. Secondly—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. May I draw to the attention of the hon. member my previous warning or advice in regard to questions. While this question may be important, it is not of the type which urgently requires information on the orders of the day.

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

## CONTINUATION OF GRANTS IN 1963

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. F. F. Stenson (Peterborough):** May I address a question to the Minister of Labour. It is in regard to vocational and technical schools. Will the grants to those schools be extended after March 31, 1963?

**Mr. Speaker:** May I address the same injunction to the hon. member.

[Mr. Speaker.]

**SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**

## CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Friday, September 28, consideration of the motion of Mr. Gordon Chaplin for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in this debate I desire first of all to observe the traditional and worthy custom—at some times easier to follow than at others—of congratulating the mover (Mr. Chaplin) and seconder (Mr. Vincent) of the address in reply. Today the task is an easy one because both hon. members performed their task in a way which was creditable to themselves and to their party. They must, I think, have made an impression on all members of the house because of the constructive nature of their contributions.

I may perhaps be pardoned for saying an additional word about the mover because of the fact that his father was so long associated in such an honourable and important way with our deliberations as a member of the house. As I have ventured to tell the hon. member already, I think his father would have been very proud and happy if he had been here last Friday.

The first business of this parliament once the formalities have been completed—and it has taken a little time to complete these formalities this afternoon—must be to decide in accordance with our constitutional and democratic rights whether the minority government now in office has the confidence of this House of Commons. In the present circumstances—and I emphasize “in the present circumstances”—such a motion takes precedence over other business, as it has done in the past in similar circumstances. For this purpose it is the duty and the privilege of the official opposition to move a motion which will make that decision possible. That duty is obvious. Indeed, it is inescapable when nearly 63 per cent of the voters in this country have declared in a recent election that they have no confidence in this government, in its policies and in its leadership.

If there were to be any surprise expressed, it would be not that we are following the course I have indicated but that we did not intend to follow it having regard to the repudiation of the government on June 18 and the stand taken by this party in the recent election campaign. A motion of no confidence having been moved, it becomes the duty of every member of this newly elected house to vote for or against it. If the decision results in the defeat of the government then there will be a dissolution and a general