The Budget-Mr. Drew

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not know to what my hon. friend is referring, but if he is referring to what I think he has in mind then it may well be that that is a matter which concerns a concessionaire. If it does concern a concessionaire, and of that I am not too sure, it is a matter over which the Canadian National Railways, and certainly the Department of Transport, would have absolutely no jurisdiction. However, if it is a matter which is under the direct jurisdiction of the Canadian National Railways, then I shall make inquiries and perhaps I can report to the house at a later date.

IMMIGRATION

DEPORTATION ORDER AGAINST MR. AND MRS. HENRI ZORIN

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. Earl Rowe (Dufferin-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration if he would care to comment on the more or less controversial issue regarding a deportation order against Mr. and Mrs. Henri Zorin? I understand Mr. Zorin is a graduate of McGill University and his wife is a graduate of the Royal Victoria College.

Some hon. Members: What is the question?

Mr. Rowe: My question is this. Has the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration any comment to make as to the deportation order issued by his department against Mr. and Mrs. Zorin, in view of the fact he was only defending his wife in the streets of the city of Quebec?

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this is the first I have heard of this matter but I shall look into the files and see what the situation is.

(See also page 4066.)

THE BUDGET

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed, from Monday, April 12, consideration of the motion of Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Macdonnell.

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, for some years it has been customary for the Leader of the Opposition to wait until the closing stages of this debate to make such remarks as he

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

deems appropriate in regard to the budget. I depart from that practice this afternoon for one reason, and one reason only.

One part of the budget speech, and a substantial part, raised an issue which it would be very unwise for the members of this parliament to ignore, and to which it seems to me we should direct our attention before the unfortunate consequences go beyond anything anticipated in the budget speech itself.

Already, since that budget speech was made in this house, bitter things have been said in different parts of Canada which are not contributing and will not contribute to national unity within this country. I regret that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) chose to adopt what I believe to have been an unnecessarily provocative manner in presenting a decision which it was entirely within the authority of the government to present to this house.

There is always room for debate on constitutional issues, and if there were not our law books would not be filled with the records of so many appeals to our senior courts to determine what the meaning of our constitution and other constitutions really It does not help national unity to seek to make this subject one which appears to be an isolated issue between the government of any one province and the government of Canada. Nor does it help national unity to have any provincial premier attacked in this house, no matter who that premier may be, because an hon, member of this house cannot agree with the point of view that a provincial premier expresses.

Every one of us comes from one of the ten provinces. We are not only citizens of Canada, but we also have a personal and very natural interest in the affairs of our own provinces as well. I do not think any one of us regards it as desirable that attacks on the premiers of those provinces be made in such a way as to appear that the mere mention of the name of a particular premier in itself suggested some improper association. I do not think those who have made such attacks would themselves welcome similar attacks on the premiers of their own provin-This situation is not improving. It is getting worse day by day, and rapidly. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) took it upon himself to admonish those who choose press conferences to present constitutional opinions. Then having admonished others, he himself went on a press conference last night on the radio to deal with the very same subject. Evidently what is sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander. The difference, of course, is that the radio press conference had a much wider audience.