

Inquiries of the Ministry

asked whether a new private car had been built for the president of Canadian National Railways and the cost of this car and what had been done with the car formerly used by the president.

I would refer my hon. friend to the answer given to the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) on page 2896 of *Hansard* of the current session, in which he will see that no private, business or official cars for the use of officials or executives of the Canadian National Railways have been manufactured by the railway or purchased for Canadian National Railways since January 1, 1953, but that since that date two obsolete passenger cars, which have been replaced, were converted to business cars in company shops replacing two units no longer efficient or safe for use in the service, and that the cost of conversion was approximately \$127,000 for each car. This represents the total cost, as prior to conversion the cars had been retired and written off.

As was stated in the answer given to the hon. member for Prince Albert, no private, business or official cars for the use of officials or executives of the Canadian National Railways were under construction when the answer was given on 18th of April, 1955, and this is the situation at the present time. One of the two cars referred to in the answer above mentioned is made available to the president as required. The car formerly used by him has been returned to the pool of business cars used by executives of the railroad in conducting the railway operations.

NATIONAL REVENUE**REQUEST FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON ORDER PAPER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of National Revenue if the answers to the first four questions on the order paper are ready?

Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, they are being prepared.

Mr. Fleming: Does that mean they are not ready?

Mr. McCann: They are being prepared.

Mr. Fleming: I did not hear.

Mr. McCann: I said that the answers are being prepared.

Mr. Fleming: But I asked the minister another question, and he made some attempt at an answer which I could not hear, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McCann: I repeated what I had said.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Speaker, the minister is saying something, but I cannot hear it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member asked one question and received one answer. He repeated the question but changed the words and he asked if the answers were ready. The minister has said they are being prepared. We all heard that.

[Later:]

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that there are to be taken into account other considerations than the ordinary details of the Department of National Revenue when the estimates come forward will the Prime Minister take the appropriate steps to assure that the replies to the questions directed to the Minister of National Revenue are supplied as soon as possible so that the information may be available in advance of the calling of the estimates of that department?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is perfectly satisfied that no assurance from him is required in order to have carried out the statements about that matter made by the Minister of National Revenue.

Mr. Drew: It has taken six weeks.

DISABLED PERSONS**REFERENCE TO DEFINITION OF "TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY" IN ACT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. S. Zaplitny (Dauphin): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the minister inform the house whether, under the disability allowance act, the term "total and permanent disability", or the definition of that term, is the same in every province in Canada so far as administration is concerned?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The answer to the question is in the affirmative. The definition arises out of an agreement following a dominion-provincial conference. The definition is one that is being interpreted by all provinces alike throughout the country.

Mr. Zaplitny: May I ask a supplementary question? Has the minister received any complaints with respect to the interpretation of the definition or the definition itself?

Mr. Martin: My hon. friend may be surprised but one of the prerogatives of the Minister of National Health and Welfare is that complaints are almost all he receives.