

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

is of interest to know, of course, that Empire day is the day before Victoria day.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The Friday before Victoria day.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That has been the date set for Empire day throughout the years. Hence, whatever the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom had to say about Empire day, it has no application to Victoria day.

**Mr. Herridge:** I have a supplementary question. The Prime Minister of Great Britain said that the proposal was being made with the concurrence of other members of the commonwealth. Are we going to have a Victoria day and a Commonwealth day or a Victoria day only? Are we going to fall in line with other members of the commonwealth in this respect?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The point I was making a moment ago, Mr. Speaker, was that Empire day is May 23 and Victoria day is May 24 but a change was made in 1952, I believe, to provide that wherever May 24 falls on a certain day of the week, it shall be celebrated the following Monday. As to whether or not we intend to make a change in the name of either day, that of course is another question. It is a matter for consideration of the government, and if any decision is made the house will be made aware of it in due course.

**CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY****WALTHAM-OTTAWA SUBDIVISION—REPORTED APPLICATION TO SUSPEND PASSENGER SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Temiscamingue):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister inform the house if the board of transport commissioners for Canada has received an application from the Canadian Pacific Railway for suspension of its passenger service on the Waltham-Ottawa subdivision? If so, what consideration has the board given to such application? What objections has the board received to the proposed discontinuance of this service? Finally, will the minister order a public hearing so that all interested parties may be heard before this application is disposed of?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member's question, as I heard it, relates to something before the board of transport commissioners. It does not seem to me that this is the proper place to inquire as to what is going on before the board of transport commissioners.

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I have a relatively simple answer.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Put it on the order paper.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the question is out of order I think it follows that it would be irregular to answer it.

**NATIONAL DEFENCE****NEGOTIATIONS FOR RELAXATION OF U.S. "BUY AMERICAN" LEGISLATION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct to the Prime Minister a question arising out of a story in this morning's *Globe and Mail*. Can the Prime Minister comment on the statement that negotiations are now being conducted with the United States with a view to the relaxation of "buy American" legislation, which imposes a burden of up to 12 per cent on Canadian firms bidding for defence orders? Can the Prime Minister say what progress is being made in any such negotiations?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** As has been said on a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker, continuing representations have been made to the United States with respect to defence production orders. Those negotiations have continued and are continuing. I can add no more to what I said the other evening when I spoke at length in the debate in this regard.

**Mr. Argue:** I have a supplementary question. Can the Prime Minister say whether the question of the 12 per cent penalty is a matter of negotiation?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Every phase of the matter is a matter of consideration.

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON FUTURE ROLE OF R.C.A.F.**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. R. Garland (Nipissing):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. The minister must recognize that the government's decision announced last Friday—

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Garland:**—has understandably had a demoralizing effect on the R.C.A.F.—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I think the hon. member began by making an assertion. If he has a question, perhaps he will ask it.

**Mr. Garland:** I am wondering whether, in view of the present situation, the minister will make a statement either now or at the