

Mr. Howard: Is the minister in a position to indicate to the house who this person will be?

Mr. Starr: No, Mr. Speaker.

FINANCE

REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF EXPORT TAX ON ELECTRICITY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack Davis (Coast-Capilano): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the change in policy in respect of the export of electric power from Canada, as announced in the speech from the throne, is the minister giving immediate consideration to the removal of the export tax on electricity from this country? I might mention it is the only export tax levied in this country.

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of Finance): That is a matter for the budget, Mr. Speaker, and at the moment I am not prepared to go further.

ACTION WITH RESPECT TO BANKRUPTCY FRAUDS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. C. Munro (Hamilton East): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Is the minister's department giving consideration to the brief on bankruptcy frauds presented to him and, if so, what action does the department intend to take?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would earnestly submit to the hon. member that he review his thinking with regard to questions on orders of the day.

TRANSPORT

NEWFOUNDLAND—PROPOSED CLOSING OF BRANCH LINE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. J. Cashin (St. John's West): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport, and I apologize for not having given him notice. Have any representations been made by the federal government opposing the proposed closing of the Canadian National branch line from Placentia to Argentia Junction?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I seem to detect a pattern here. Once a railway indicates that it wants to close a local section of line or curtail some railway service, it is treated as a matter of great and urgent importance to be answered on orders of the day. I think hon. members will realize that they can better

Inquiries of the Ministry

put their questions and get better information if they use the appropriate procedures of the order paper.

(Translation):

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LETTERS IN FRENCH FROM SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I shall endeavour to speak slowly, although I am having some difficulty in getting used to the slow pace of parliament.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Dumont: My question is directed to the Prime Minister and has to do with some explanations I got in a letter written in English and on which are inscribed the words "Sergeant-at-Arms", which sounds like—*chargez l'arme*. I must say I find the mention of arms rather disturbing, especially since there was a reference to swords fifteen days ago.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Dumont: Here is my question. Could the Prime Minister ask the Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Currie, to write us, members from Quebec, in French when he has something he wishes to say to us. I am worried when arms are mentioned in this house.

Mr. Speaker: The duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms come under the jurisdiction of the Speaker of this house. We will see that the hon. member's wishes are complied with, although this may be a bit difficult to do at times. But we shall endeavour in every way possible to address our communications to hon. members in their own language, even though the situation may be rather delicate sometimes.

TRANSLATION INTO FRENCH OF WORK BY BEAUCHESNE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J.-P. Cook (Montmagny-L'Islet): May I direct a question to the Prime Minister? Could the Prime Minister tell me whether he has started to consider the question he took as notice, last Wednesday, regarding the translation of Beauchesne's?

(Text):

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I decided to look up Beauchesne myself after the question was asked. I find that Beauchesne is copyrighted in Canada by Arthur Beauchesne. The fourth edition is published by the Carswell Company Limited. While the people of Canada do purchase a number of copies, we have no control whatever over the question as to whether they should be published in English or in French. Indeed, for the government to