

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister asked the hon. member to wait until Tuesday, when the Minister of Transport will be here. The Minister of Transport was here only once last week. All I am asking the Prime Minister is whether he can assure us that the Minister of Transport will in fact be here on Tuesday.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the house that according to our arrangement, on days when matters coming under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Transport are raised there will be somebody in the house to answer the questions.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. I ask him the direct question; after one week's trial period of this system of planned attendance does he feel it is working in the way it was intended, and would he explain some of the advantages to the house which he outlined on October 4?

Mr. Trudeau: I must say that the Conservative party is even more conservative than we thought. We hope they will keep trying this novelty.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he can give assurance to the house that no crisis will arise within a department on days when that department is not represented by a minister.

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker, provided they are not engineered by the opposition.

[Translation]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**VICTORIAVILLE, QUE.—PROPOSED ABANDONMENT OF PASSENGER SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. André Fortin (Loisbinière): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask the Minister of Transport a question but, in his absence, I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary.

Some time ago, the C.N.R. management announced that passenger service at Victoriaville would be discontinued completely. There was a general outcry among the population of that city of 23,500 inhabitants—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member must ask his question.

Mr. Fortin: Can the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport tell the house if the decision to discontinue passenger

[Mr. Nowlan.]

service starting next October 27 is final and irreversible?

Mr. Speaker: Order. That question should be put on the order paper.

THE BUDGET**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESENTATION ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Marcel Prud'Homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the hon. Minister of Finance.

Has the minister reached a decision regarding the date on which the budget will be brought down?

[English]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to bring in the budget on October 22. In anticipation of that I will be tabling the white paper the middle of next week.

[Later:]

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. It relates to his announcement that the budget will be brought down on October 22. Since that is a Tuesday, and since Tuesday is his day off, will he be here when the budget is presented?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I think it is most likely I will be here.

Mr. Baldwin: That is the day there will be a crisis.

AIR CANADA**INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he is in a position to announce the appointment of the new president of Air Canada.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hees: Would the Prime Minister consider appointing Mr. MacIsaac and Mr. Anderson to the Senate to clear the way for a non-political appointment for this position?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker.