

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I was going to suggest that this is perhaps a question for the order paper, but I will mention it to the minister on his return.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I will wait for the answer, but with great respect this matter merits answer now.

Mr. Speaker: May I draw to the attention of the hon. member for York South that the nature of the answer is not subject to comment.

REQUEST OF SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR
NEGOTIATION PROCEDURES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Will there be government legislation during this session amending the Civil Service Act, to meet the request of the various civil service organizations for negotiating procedures?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know my hon. friend is too good a parliamentarian to believe that that question is proper on the orders of the day.

PENSIONS

NOVA SCOTIA—FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION TO MINERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Malcolm MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the dire need for employment opportunities in the industrial Cape Breton area, is the federal government presently making a direct financial contribution to the government of the province of Nova Scotia with a view to assisting in providing special pensions to miners 60 years of age and over, thereby removing them from the labour market and opening up new employment opportunities for younger persons?

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of Finance): The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker.

AIR TRANSPORT

INQUIRY AS TO BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS
RESPECTING PRAIRIE SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister advise the house when he expects the

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report and recommendations of the air transport board regarding the prairie milk run air service?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, before November 1. In the meantime Trans-Canada Air Lines is carrying the service as before.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

REPORTED REDUCTION IN TRANSCONTINENTAL
SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether he has given any consideration to the urgent requests that I know he and other members have received regarding the cancellation for the winter months by the Canadian National Railways of its transcontinental trains Nos. 3 and 4.

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as the house knows, curtailment of service, short of abandonment of a line, can be decided upon by the railways themselves without applying to the board of transport commissioners; but if anyone feels that his rights have been infringed or that the interests of the public are at stake he can always apply to the board of transport commissioners.

Mr. Fisher: A supplementary question. Will the minister consider following the practice adopted by his predecessor in office in 1960 of making representations to the railways that led at that time to the ending of this curtailment idea?

Mr. Balcer: I have not received any representations yet but as soon as I receive any I will study the matter.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NATO—REDUCTION OF R.C.A.F. COMMITMENT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): I should like to pose a question to the Minister of National Defence. Has the government's announced decision to reduce from 12 to 8 squadrons the Royal Canadian Air Force overseas commitment to NATO been rescinded or changed in any way?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the number of aircraft to be supplied to NATO was decided some year and a half to two years ago and we are following the policy which was announced at that time.