

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Herridge:** Can the minister inform the house of any late developments with respect to the negotiations for the hauling of coal from the interior of British Columbia to the Pacific coast?

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I did not realize that the hon. gentleman was having a centennial bust, and I congratulate him.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** What is the nature of it?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** It may be that later this week I will have something to communicate, but at the present time I have nothing that would add to the encyclopaedic knowledge the hon. gentleman already has.

[Translation]

**TRANSPORT****INQUIRY AS TO PROTECTION AT LEVEL CROSSINGS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct the following question to the brilliant Minister of Transport. Since turbotrains will be put into operation in the near future, will the transport commission and the railway companies conclude an agreement soon concerning regulations which would provide maximum safety at grade crossings?

**Mr. Speaker:** I suggest that the hon. member should put his question on the order paper.

**Mr. Choquette:** At ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

**FORESTRY****OTTAWA—STATEMENT ON FATAL ACCIDENT AT LABORATORY**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development):** Mr. Speaker, last Friday the hon. member for Queens (Mr. MacLean) asked a question in the house concerning the accident which occurred on property belonging to the department of forestry in the Ottawa area.

An investigation is being made by the provincial, federal and municipal authorities to determine the cause of this accident, which did not take place in the laboratory but in a household garbage truck. Unfortunately, one of the men working on the truck died last Thursday.

We will give out more detailed information when we have it.

[Mr. Herridge.]

[English]

**PUBLIC SERVICE****LEGISLATION TO INCREASE PENSIONS OF RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I had a question I wanted to put to the Prime Minister, but in view of the fact that he has had to leave the house I wonder if I may put it to the government house leader. In view of the fact that the arrangements we have now made for bringing to a close this part of the current session include time for legislation other than supply, notably Friday, July 7, after we have passed the supply bill, will the government do its best to bring before the house before we break for the summer recess the legislation respecting pension increases for retired civil servants?

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Revenue I shall be glad to take this question as notice and bring it to the attention of the Prime Minister for an answer at a later date.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Speaker, will the minister, as government house leader, also take notice of it himself?

**TRANSPORT****REQUEST FOR FERRY SERVICE RATE INCREASE, NOVA SCOTIA-NEW BRUNSWICK**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Melvin McQuaid (Kings):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. I would ask the minister whether Northumberland Ferries Limited, the private company which operates the ferry service between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, made a request of the government for an increase in rates on that particular service.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, of course, Northumberland Ferries are subsidized quite substantially out of the federal treasury. There was a very great deal of pressure for additional service that would have added substantially to the cost. It was felt that the additional service was needed because of the desire of people to visit Prince Edward Island. Because of the additional cost it did not seem unreasonable that some part of it should be recouped.