

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

the master agency plan being enforced on the people in the Edmonton area by the C.N.R. officials. Is it correct that the stations in the affected area will be closed permanently as soon as the C.N.R. officials have met with the sessional committee of members of parliament, as already announced by one railway official?

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot accept the statements made by the hon. member, but I will look into the subject matter raised in his statements and if there is anything in them I will give an answer.

**MINES, FORESTS AND WATERS****LACK OF QUORUM AT MEETING OF COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

A meeting of the mines, forests and waters committee was duly called for 3.30 yesterday afternoon. Around half past three or a quarter to four I went there with the hon. members for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Turner) Richmond-Wolfe (Mr. Asselin) and Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette). We were twelve members whereas the quorum is only ten.

Since there was only one item on the agenda, that is the invitation extended to the Quebec and Ontario ministers of natural resources to come and express their views on the ownership of the islands situated in Hudson bay and James bay, two Liberals, namely the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George and the hon. member for Richmond-Wolfe left—

[Text]

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. What is the question of privilege?

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, it is a rule of the house, surely, that matters which are referred to a committee should be settled in the committee and not dragged into the proceedings of this house while the committee is still sitting and has not made a report. I suggest to the hon. gentleman that matters of this kind should be dealt with in the committee, according to the rules of this house.

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, on the question of privilege—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Would the hon. member for Lapointe please state his question of privilege quickly. If it concerns the proceedings of a committee, such matters should be

[Mr. Smallwood.]

settled within the committee. What is the question of privilege?

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, on the point of order raised by the Secretary of State it is not a question of the content of the discussion in the committee, but rather that two Liberal members walked out, thus destroying the quorum that was already there and preventing the committee holding a meeting.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I submit that this is a matter for the committee, Mr. Speaker—

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** —and not for the house. I also suggest that the committee should look after its own affairs in regard to matters which have been referred to it by the house.

**Mr. Gregoire:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** What is the question of privilege, please?

[Translation]

**Mr. Gregoire:** Mr. Speaker, here is exactly the point of privilege; the committee does not sit because the Liberal members do not attend its meetings and do not want to examine the questions put before them. And when a member takes the time to go to the committee—

[Text]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I think the point taken by the Secretary of State is well founded. It has been decided in this house many times that matters affecting the conduct of a committee must be decided within the committee and not brought to the attention of the house.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gregoire:** On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, it is precisely because the committee does not sit—

[Text]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I have decided the questions. There is no question of privilege.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gregoire:** Mr. Speaker, I appeal against your ruling.

[Text]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. gentleman knows the rules as well as I do.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gregoire:** Mr. Speaker, I appeal against your ruling.

[Text]

**Mr. Speaker:** The house has heard the decision of the Chair from which the hon.