

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

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**Tuesday, December 4, 1962**

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF  
STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. Alan Macnaughton (Mount Royal)** presented the first report of the standing committee on public accounts and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

*(Translation):*

### CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

AMENDMENT TO REDUCE SALARY OF PRESIDENT

**Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe):** In the absence of the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) and at his request, may I have the unanimous consent of the house to introduce his bill?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the house consent un-animously to the hon. member for Lapointe introducing the bill in the name of the hon. member for Villeneuve?

**Some hon. Members:** Yes.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

*(Text):*

### NATIONAL DEFENCE

NUCLEAR WEAPONS—REFERENCE TO STATEMENT  
BY TRADE MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the answer reported to have been given by the Minister of Trade and Commerce to a question asked him yesterday, whether nuclear arms were in Canadian custody at the present time: "No, not as far as I know", may I ask the Prime Minister whether he will inform this house, including his colleagues in the cabinet, whether Canada does possess nuclear weapons at this time?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** I am sure the hon. gentleman never made the statement in question, because each and every one of my colleagues knows what the house already knows, namely that we have not.

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Perhaps I might answer the Leader of the Opposition. I mentioned the

atomic capability of the weapons used by our forces overseas, and the reporter mistook this to mean atomic weapons.

**Mr. Pearson:** A supplementary question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Would he inform the house what he meant by his reported answer yesterday in Toronto that the departments of government, other than the Department of National Defence, are all too large to know the details, that is about atomic weapons?

**Mr. Hees:** I am delighted to reply to the Leader of the Opposition and let him know the answer to his question. I was asked by the reporter concerning some questions about details of the weapons used by our forces, and I said that to get detailed information about those weapons he should, of course, refer to my colleague the Minister of National Defence.

**Mr. Pearson:** You were misquoted, then.

**Mr. Hees:** No, not at all.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I trust that we will not get into a minor debate here on national defence. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate.

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I was under the impression that the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate was rising to ask a supplementary question, but if he was not, then—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** You were quite correct, sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then I will recognize him.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister a supplementary question about his interesting peregrinations in the University of Toronto. Would the minister explain to the house his reported statement that a study of Canada's anti-combines legislation is under-way in Ottawa to search for a safe means of allowing industrial concentration to take place?

**Mr. Speaker:** With the greatest deference, I hardly think that is a supplementary. We were on the subject of nuclear weapons. If the hon. member for Kootenay West is on that narrow field he may ask a supplementary.