

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

the policy of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, which is an independent crown corporation and not, at the moment, under the control of the government. I must say, in so far as the act is concerned, the powers of the minister are simply those of reporting to parliament, and within the scope of those limited powers I can tell my hon. friend that I have not had any word, directly or indirectly, with respect to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation taking over the national film board.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate):** May I ask a supplementary question. Does the Minister of Finance agree with the view just expressed as to the relationship of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to the government?—because he did not express any such view when he sat on this side.

**Mr. Nowlan:** It was a different minister then.

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** I can assure the importunate gentleman, who has just asked this question, that there is between the Minister of National Revenue and myself a measure of agreement that he and his colleagues might well have envied.

**NATIONAL PARKS****CARTIER-BREBEUF—REFERENCE TO PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Jean Lesage (Monimagny-L'Islet):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister what steps he has taken to implement the promise he made in Quebec recently to the members of la Societe St. Jean Baptiste that the Cartier-Brebeuf park would be made a national historic park?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** I thank my hon. friend for asking that question. I was greatly interested in the situation wherein, in our country, so many of our historic areas fall into disuse and are forgotten. We had an example right here in the city of Ottawa in the old Supreme Court of Canada building—

**Mr. Lesage:** I am speaking about Quebec.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:**—in which seven of Canada's prime ministers argued cases from time to time. I realize the need of action being taken in this regard. When I was in Quebec I must say I was deeply moved by the ceremony I attended there. I saw that area where Jacques Cartier spent that winter which all but ended exploration in what is now Canada. I then suggested that that area be set aside as a national historic site.

[Mr. Nowlan.]

Action is being taken in that connection. A full investigation is being made. As soon as we are in a position to report the effective nature of that action, I shall do so.

**Mr. Lesage:** May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Prime Minister or the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources what action is being taken or has been taken?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, in the past I never heard such particularization. I speak of the objective and the general means. The routine details are not going to be gone into in this house, because it is foreign to the rights of the house to go into such details except when the estimates are discussed.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether, in principle, he would be willing to take similar action with respect to the area surrounding cape Bonavista, which was discovered first by Cabot and was also visited by Cartier before Cartier went to Quebec.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I am not going to enter into a controversy.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** There is no controversy.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** My hon. friends sitting side by side are almost in the same degree of agreement in which they used to be when they were sitting over on this side of the house, when they invariably disagreed.

**FREIGHT RATES****REQUEST FOR DELAY IN GRANTING PROPOSED INCREASE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. C. E. Johnston (Bow River):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Will the government take the necessary steps to delay any increase in freight rates asked for by the railways in their latest request for a 10 per cent increase until a proper investigation has been undertaken, the provinces have had an opportunity to make representations, and an effort has been made to bring about a greater equality in freight rates across Canada?

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, as all hon. members know, the hearing before the board of transport commissioners has not been concluded and it will not be concluded before all parties are given an adequate opportunity to be heard. Then a report will be made to the government and the matter will be seriously considered.