SHIPPING

MONTREAL—FEDERAL PARTICIPATION IN STUDY OF WATER LEVEL

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Can he tell us whether the federal government will be represented at the meeting to be held on June 30 next to study the critical situation of the water level in the port of Montreal?

[Text]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I would have to look into that question.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.-SALE OF HOTEL

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Queens): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport and ask him whether he is now in a position to answer a question I put to him on May 25 regarding the sale of Canadian National Railways hotels, with special reference to the one in Charlottetown.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I imagine the hon. gentleman knows the answer to that question already. I was advised some days ago that the hotel had been sold.

Mr. MacLean (Queens): A supplementary question to the umquhile government house leader. Are the opposition or all hon. members to assume, when a question is taken as notice and an answer promised, that the answer will not be given unless they ask the question again at a later date?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege might I say a word about that. All I undertook to do was to bring the question to the attention of the railway authorities. The announcement of the sale of this hotel, which was an administrative matter, was made at a time when the house was not sitting. It was made by a political friend of the hon. gentleman, the premier of Prince Edward Island. I thought it would be rather redundant to take up the scarce time of the house by repeating that announcement.

Mr. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Speaker, on the question of privilege, I should say that I for one assume that the minister makes himself aware of his responsibilities and of

Inquiries of the Ministry

what is happening under the jurisdiction of his department at all times and as soon as he can. When he tells the house that he will seek the answer to a question I think we always assume that he is seeking the answer so as to make the house aware of what is the answer. I find now that we have to be more careful.

AIR CANADA

CANCELLATION OF CONNECTING FLIGHTS FROM HALIFAX AND SAINT JOHN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister of Transport about a maritime matter on which I hope he will be better informed. Will the minister investigate and report on the many protests which have been made regarding the cancellation of certain Saint John-Halifax connecting Air Canada flights; and will the minister guarantee their restoration or give an opportunity for other regional carriers to move in?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will be very glad indeed to make the fullest possible inquiry to get the information the hon. gentleman asks, but I know the hon. gentleman is not seriously suggesting that I should take over the operation of T.C.A. myself.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. R. Southam (Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the most urgent importance to direct to the Prime Minister. From what appears to be a deliberate government policy of rooting out little by little our distinctive terms and designations which remind this nation of its past, is the Liberal party dedicated to turning this country into a republic?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question is out of order.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

LA MACAZA, QUE.—PROTESTS AGAINST STORAGE OF NUCLEAR ARMS

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Has he heard