

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I have not actually had any conversations. I did have some correspondence with the minister of agriculture of Quebec and I conveyed to him the same message I have conveyed to this house, namely, that all those departments of the government of Canada that were interested would be consulted before any action was taken and we would, of course, pay the most careful attention to any representations that were made by anyone concerned. Since I communicated with him, to the best of my knowledge I have received no further representations myself although the harbours board may have.

**Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot):** As a supplementary question, in view of the fact that the assurances the minister is giving with regard to the sale or possible rental of this elevator are not satisfactory to those interested, can the minister say in black and white whether he is going to permit or refuse the rental or sale of this elevator?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Speaker, I could not say in black and white what would be done about a hypothetical proposition that I have not seen, but I think I can assure the gentleman that no sale or lease of that elevator is going to take place unless it is the belief of the government that it will contribute to the national interest, to the interest of the consumers of domestic grain in the province of Quebec, and to facilitating the export of our grain.

**Mr. Ricard:** We are not satisfied with that.

**Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Springfield):** As a supplementary question I wish to ask the Minister of Transport whether he can say that it is government policy to encourage the sale or lease by the National Harbours Board of these facilities.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I think I could put it this way, sir. It is the policy of the government to take every practical and sensible step to see that the maximum use is made of these facilities because, as the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, our exports are growing, our grain traffic is growing and we have to make the best possible use of the limited facilities we have.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I wish to ask one question in that connection. Surely the minister does not suggest that private interests taking over this elevator could assure a greater throughput, which I think was the expression he used.

[Mr. Hamilton.]

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Throughput.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Throughput. I put it the wrong way, end to.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** It is the same thing.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** But surely the minister does not suggest that private interests operating this elevator would be able to do a better job than the government?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I think that is quite probable.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We have had a number of supplementary questions on this subject and I suggest to hon. members that we might go on to another matter.

## INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the hon. Miss Secretary of State. Has the minister received any representations from the Minister of Agriculture for the improvement of C.B.C. programs in accordance with his suggestions to the national banquet of the curling association when he was guest speaker about a week ago?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please, The hon. member knows he cannot ask about communications between members of the cabinet.

[Translation]

## CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR UNINTERRUPTED PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL NEWS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State.

For the past two or three evenings the broadcasting of the national news has been interrupted to give the local news of Ottawa. Could we have at least on the French network the same service as on the English network, that is the entire broadcast of the national news in the evening and the local news, if any, afterwards?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This question should be placed on the order paper.