

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me there is some difficulty in communication at this time between the minister and the hon. member. I hope that the question can be asked and answered briefly because, as I suggested a moment ago, we are running short of time.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State is guilty of selective misunderstanding. May I ask him whether he will now make available to the House, today or within the next couple of days, the actual amounts of money expended in the form of a provincial breakdown of the expenditures.

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, I fail to appreciate the hon. member's innuendoes, particularly since they are unfounded. I answered his question, whether he liked the answer or not is none of my business.

* * *

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**POSITION OF GOVERNMENT RESPECTING STATEMENT BY
PREMIER OF ONTARIO**

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister.

Would he indicate his reaction to the recent statement by the premier of Ontario to the effect that it is the socialist philosophy of the federal government which has brought the Canadian economy to a standstill and that it is about time that the citizens be given a chance to work? Have the Prime Minister and the government found a way to reply to the charges made by this high authority?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the best answer I can give is to send him back to back with the leader of the New Democratic Party.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I thank you.

* * *

[English]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**INTENTION TO DISCONTINUE OTTAWA-TORONTO
PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE**

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and it arises from recently published railway passenger policy. Has the Department of Transport taken note of the recently reported intention of Canadian National Railways to discontinue all of its Ottawa-Toronto passenger train service, and of the damaging nature of such action to economic and social interests and to services to the general public?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Cardigan.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

TRANSPORT**RESTORATION OF SUBSIDY TO NORTHUMBERLAND FERRIES LIMITED IN LIGHT OF INCREASE IN FERRY RATES**

Mr. Melvin McQuaid (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Transport but in his absence I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary, or to the acting minister, or even to the Prime Minister. Is it the intention of the government to restore the government subsidy to Northumberland Ferries Limited, the removal of which a short time ago resulted in a very substantial increase in ferry rates between Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia?

Mr. Speaker: While the matter is being considered the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Annapolis Valley.

* * *

BROADCASTING**PROPOSED SALE OF CABLEVISION INTEREST IN QUEBEC—
POLICY ON ISSUANCE OF LICENCES TO AGENTS OF
CROWN IN PROVINCES**

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of certain statements yesterday about the proposed sale of cablevision interests in Quebec, has there been any change in federal policy prohibiting the issuance of broadcasting licences to agents of the Crown in the provinces?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe the sale to which the hon. member refers is in any way an encroachment upon those policies as they presently exist.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Secretary of State. In view of the cabinet directive of June 4, 1970 pursuant to Section 27 of the Broadcasting Act, which prohibits the CRTC issuing licences to Her Majesty in right of any province or to agents of Her Majesty in right of any province, I wonder whether the Secretary of State has recommended to the cabinet a change in this directive so that educational radio and television stations in Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan which were affected by the directive can now apply and perhaps obtain similar licences?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): We are studying this question, Mr. Speaker, and we discussed it with two of the three provinces concerned. One has yet to be consulted and after these discussions we shall perhaps indeed find it advisable to bring suggestions to the attention of the Cabinet, but this has not yet been done because these discussions are still in progress.