

holding policies and annuities are now questioning how they can shape their affairs. Maybe I can put it more succinctly. Does the tax now announced apply to those interest elements of the annuities and insurance policies prior to maturity?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I still think the question as asked is not in order, because we might have a number of members asking the minister to interpret the statute involved here, or any statute, and particularly taxing statutes. I doubt very much whether the question can be asked.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I would like to debate it at ten o'clock. I still say with the greatest respect this is a question of policy, and not interpretation.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Surely we can find out the taxes of the land. That is what I am asking the minister. Where do the taxes apply?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

## AIR TRANSPORT

### AMALGAMATION OF REGIONAL CARRIERS

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Has the Canadian Transport Commission given approval to the announced merger of Eastern Provincial Airways Limited and Nordair Limited? I ask the question, Mr. Speaker, because such an amalgamation of major regional carriers if allowed could easily introduce a third main line, which is contrary to C.T.C. policy.

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** I will be glad to refer this question to the Canadian Transport Commission, Mr. Speaker, and get a definitive answer for my hon. friend.

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the minister is making an inquiry regarding the merger of Nordair and E.P.A. would he also ensure that the service to be provided, particularly in E.P.A. runs, will be up to the standard set when they received their initial application to fly from Montreal through Charlottetown and the Magdalens?

**Mr. Hellyer:** I will refer that question also, and get the answer.

## Inquiries of the Ministry

### CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

#### TRANSFER OF DIRECTION OF WORK AT TRANSCONA SHOPS

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** While I have the floor, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might reply to a question asked two or three days ago by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre in respect to the C.N.R. Transcona shops. May I say, Mr. Speaker, that any report of reduction in personnel, work or possible closing of the C.N.R. Transcona shops is completely false, as I am sure the hon. member is aware. No such move has ever been considered. The only change is an administrative one where the works manager of the Transcona shop reports to the systems headquarters office, rather than the regional offices as was done in the past. The systems headquarters office is in Montreal.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, can the minister give assurance that this is not the thin edge of the wedge for a wider change?

**Mr. Hellyer:** On the basis of information given to me, I can certainly give that assurance. I can give unqualified assurance, and perhaps go even further and say that the present plans indicate a quite enlarged work force in the Transcona shops requiring additional personnel rather than contracting the work force.

[Later:]

**Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. While the minister gave the assurance to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that the transfer of C.N.R. administrative offices from Winnipeg to Montreal was not to be followed by any transfer of work force, does he recall that 20 years ago when Air Canada transferred its administrative offices from Winnipeg to Montreal this was followed by the transfer of the work force?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

## GRAIN

### RAIL MOVEMENT TO SHIPPING POINTS

**Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** My question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact those responsible for the movement of grain have 20,000 freight cars in their commitment to deliver grain, what steps is the minister taking to ensure the Vancouver fiasco is not repeated at the Lakehead, where