

Inquiries of the Ministry

did receive such a telegram this morning, and I should like to clear up a statement that I made yesterday, which related to the port of Montreal only. We have received complaints about interference with the activities of farmers in Quebec by strikers placing trucks to block their access to the harbours board property. The matter is under special study at the present moment, and I may say that the government has been in discussion with the authorities in Quebec about this subject.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister a supplementary question. In view of the dire consequences of a continuation of this strike, and in view of the fact that the minister has today said he has information which would take more time to relate than he has available on orders of the day, will he assure the house that he will make a full statement on this matter tomorrow so the house may be fully informed as to the facts relating to this strike?

Mr. Nicholson: I will give that suggestion serious consideration, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

[Later:]

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. It deals with the longshoremen's strike and aims at clarifying the position of the parties concerned.

Does the minister or his mediator intend to assure the longshoremen that there will not be any staff cut before December 31, 1967, so that a settlement can be reached shortly in the present conflict? Does the minister or his mediator intend to take such action?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member asked the same question a few moments ago and the Chair refused it.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. May I refer to citation 178 of Beaudesne's? The second paragraph reads as follows:

[English]

Within these lines an explanation can be sought regarding the intentions of the government, but not an expression of opinion—

I am asking whether it is the intention of the minister to propose that there be no reduction in personnel until December 31, 1967. I believe this question is in order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has already asked this question twice, and I find that I [Mr. Nicholson.]

cannot accept it. If the hon. member feels that the question is justified and sufficiently urgent he can give notice and it will be discussed in the adjournment debate.

Mr. Valade: Then I request that the question be debated at ten o'clock.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY
HEARING OF APPEALS RESPECTING
PASSENGER SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Because of the urgency of time, particularly relating to summer traffic on the railroads, could the minister tell us whether the governor in council is contemplating the various appeals made by petitioners regarding reduction of passenger traffic on the C.P.R.?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the government will endeavour, at the earliest moment convenient to all the parties, to arrange for the oral hearings that many of them have requested. I do not think the hon. gentleman would feel it would be proper for us to try to reach a conclusion without having these oral hearings.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**NATO—FRENCH WITHDRAWAL FROM BOTH
POLITICAL AND MILITARY ASPECTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is he in a position to comment on the reported intention of General de Gaulle to withdraw France from the political aspects of NATO as well as from the military aspects?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me that this question is of a very general nature and of the type which should not be asked at this time.

**RUSSIA—PERSECUTION OF UKRAINIAN
INTELLECTUALS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. I should like to ask him what action he is taking with regard to a brief he