

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

house whether the Immigration Act will be reviewed and revised during the present session of parliament?

**Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** I am not in a position at the moment to answer that question. The matter has been under review, as the hon. member knows, for some time and progress is being made.

**POWER**

SAINT JOHN, N.B.—STATUS OF AGREEMENT RESPECTING THERMAL PLANT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Since construction of the East Saint John thermal plant is now well under way, will the minister advise the house whether, after two long years of negotiation, a specific agreement has now been signed between the federal and provincial governments for the financing of this project?

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

**Mr. Robichaud:** May I ask a supplementary question. In view of the minister's regrettable reply, will he at least inform the house precisely why there has been such a delay in the signing of this agreement, or if this agreement will ever be signed?

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**

MONCTON—PROPOSED LAY-OFF OF MEN IN SHOPS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. J. Michaud (Kent, N.B.):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Has the minister received a telegram from the mayor of the city of Moncton protesting against the proposed lay-off of over 100 men in the C.N.R. shops there; if so, what action is envisaged by the minister concerning this matter?

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** I personally have not received such a telegram although one may be in my office at the present time. I think I can answer the hon. member's question best by quoting a reply which was reproduced in this morning's press by the Canadian Press:

C.N.R. vice president W. T. Wilson said today there is nothing unusual about changes in the size of the railway's staff.

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"The current reductions are part of the normal continuing process of adjusting the size of the work force to meet various employment requirements," Mr. Wilson said.

Then he went on to say this:

"Generally speaking, railway employment rises and falls in accordance with the work load resulting from such facts as seasonal needs, weather conditions and the operating requirements for keeping rolling stock in condition to meet traffic demands."

He said that no management is insensitive to the hardships caused by lay-offs. "Unless operating costs are kept under control, the company's competitive position would be jeopardized and, along with it, the continuing livelihood of all its employees."

He added that the C.N.R. is making every effort to place the employees in other jobs.

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier):** May I ask a supplementary question. Does the minister agree with the statement that there is nothing unusual in the lay-off of 600 men?

**Mr. Hees:** I say that there is nothing unusual in a variation in the work force of the C.N.R., as the former minister knows very well.

**NORTHERN AFFAIRS**

D.E.W. LINE PERSONNEL—FRATERNIZATION WITH ESKIMOS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. M. A. Hardie (Mackenzie River):** I should like to direct a question to either the Prime Minister or the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Did the government request the Federal Electric Company to issue orders under threat of dismissal to D.E.W. line personnel against fraternizing with Eskimos? If not, can the Prime Minister tell me under what statute a foreign company can prevent Canadians from such fraternizing?

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the nature of the question I will take it as notice.

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

"SHADOW OF A PALE HORSE"—INQUIRY AS TO COST AND PRODUCTION POLICY

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William):** Mr. Speaker, I have two questions for the Minister of National Revenue. The first one is this. What was the cost to the C.B.C. of the "Shadow of a Pale Horse" program? The second question is this. Is it the policy of the C.B.C. to proceed with the televising of a program which for any reason has been turned down by a designated sponsor?