

Inquiries of the Ministry

may be permitted by the board of transport commissioners with respect to freight rates will not affect the Crownsnest rates which have been long established?

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): The hon. gentleman is well aware that the so-called Crownsnest rates are determined by statute and not by the board of transport commissioners.

PUBLIC SERVICE**DEFENCE RESEARCH BOARD—INCREASE IN WORK WEEK OF SECURITY GUARDS**

On the orders of the day:

Mrs. Ellen L. Fairclough (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister now answer the question which I asked him a few days ago with reference to the hours of work of security guards at defence research board?

Hon. R. O. Campney (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker; I am sorry that I cannot. However, the matter is being looked into.

DISABLED PERSONS**INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE CHANGES IN REGULATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. M. Nicholson (Mackenzie): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I wonder whether the minister is in a position yet to indicate whether or not the regulations pertaining to disabled persons are about to be changed so as to include a larger number?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I answered that question about a week ago.

HEALTH INSURANCE**INDIANS—INQUIRY AS TO ADVICE OF DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. H. Castleden (Yorkton): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has he been informed of a complaint to the effect that certain officers of his department looking after the health of Indians, I believe in the St. Clair reserve, have been advising Indians to purchase health insurance from line companies?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I will be glad to look into that matter.

Mr. Castleden: The question is whether you have received a complaint.

[Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain).]

Mr. Martin: No. I will be glad to look into it.

Mr. Castleden: I beg the minister's pardon?

Mr. Martin: No; I have not. I will be glad to look into it.

Mr. Castleden: I should like to inform the minister to the effect—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Castleden: I should like to direct a question then to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Did the minister transfer to the Minister of National Health and Welfare the complaint that he received at the Indian conference the other day to the effect that certain officers of the Department of National Health and Welfare were advising Indians to purchase health insurance from line companies?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): I do not think that is a correct statement of the proposition, Mr. Speaker. I had the officers of my department inform the officers of my hon. friend's department about this matter and it is under consideration.

TRADE**GATT—INQUIRY AS TO TERMS OF RECENT AGREEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, may I direct two questions to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. The first one is this. When will the minister be in a position to announce the terms of the agreement recently entered into with respect to changes in the general agreement on tariffs and trade? Second, will any of the changes require legislative action on the part of parliament to bring them into effect?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I believe that the release date is Thursday of next week. I understand that no special legislation is required by parliament other than the usual changes in the tariff bill that will be brought down by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Harris).

FINANCE**BANK OF CANADA—PURPOSE OF INCREASE IN DISCOUNT RATE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. Earl Rowe (Dufferin-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Was the increase in the interest rate, which was lately ordered by the Bank of Canada, made for the purpose of discouraging the inflationary trend?