

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I am sorry, but there was so much talk over in that section of the house that I could not hear the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have some sympathy with what has been said by the minister, because while certain of the members were speaking on motions I found that, depending on what section of the house they stood in, it was difficult to hear them because of the side noises that could be heard.

Mr. Lamoureux: I should like to ask whether the United Kingdom authorities, through the Canadian high commissioner in London or through other channels, have expressed concern of the government about the Ontario government's current "Buy Canadian" campaign.

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

(Translation):

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**OFFER OF SERVICES OF FRENCH SPEAKING ACCOUNTANT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gerard Chapdelaine (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

It is reported today in *Le Devoir* that an offer to work without pay, for a six-month period, has been made to the government, and to the president of the Canadian National Railways by a Montreal accountant, Mr. Gaudry. Could the minister tell the house if he intends to consider this offer which would allow him to save six month's pay?

Mr. Speaker: I trust that the hon. member realizes that asking a minister to comment on some event or on some newspaper opinion is out of order.

Mr. Chapdelaine: Mr. Speaker, this is not an expression of opinion—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have ruled the question to be out of order.

Mr. Chapdelaine: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

Has his department been informed of a proposal made by Mr. Gaudry, an accountant from Montreal, who is offering to hold a high office without pay at the C.N.R. for a period of six months?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wish to point out again to the hon. member that in the experience of all members of this house there are

hundreds of persons offering their services without pay to the C.N.R.

Mr. Gregoire: I rise on a point of order. Are there really hundreds of persons who offer their services without pay to the government?

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the hon. member will ask me, I can give him several names.

(Text):

HEALTH AND WELFARE**MEDICAL CARE INSURANCE—REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question. In view of the fact that the premier of Ontario has been prodded into action by the Ontario Liberal party in the matter of medical care insurance, may I ask the Prime Minister if he will announce without delay this federal government's policy with regard to medical care insurance.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when these questions are prefaced they always demand an answer in so far as the preface is concerned. Apparently they did not have the same problems when the hon. gentleman was minister of health or those who preceded him, as for 22 years they did nothing. In so far as the substance of the question is concerned, may I say that the government will make its announcement when it is appropriate to do so.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I should like to ask a supplementary question, if I may. May I ask the Prime Minister if the fact that the chairman of the royal commission inquiring into health services in Canada, Chief Justice Hall of Saskatchewan, has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada means that we may expect the report of the royal commission on medical care insurance, initiated by the federal government, before the date suggested by the Prime Minister a few weeks ago, namely July of 1963?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the fact that Chief Justice Hall has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada will in no way change the situation. However, I am hopeful that we shall be able to receive a report at an earlier date than otherwise was anticipated.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Then there is some hope in my first question.