

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

representing the government give authority for these companies to make these reports?

**Mr. Kierans:** No member of the office of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce or in the office of the President of the Treasury Board or in the office of the Postmaster General gave any such authority.

**Mr. Hales:** Are we to assume, then, that these companies made these reports purely on their own initiative?

**Mr. Kierans:** No, they may have been in contact with some officials; that is the distinction I am making.

**Mr. Hales:** In the light of the minister's answer, would he advise the house who those officials were?

**Mr. Kierans:** They were not in my department; that is all I can say.

[Translation]

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, could the Postmaster General tell the house if it is true that Mr. J. Orr, of the research branch, attended the press conference given by Northern Electric about a satellite?

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General):** I am not aware of that, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk):** Can the Postmaster General indicate whether the government of Canada is committed in a contractual way now to these two firms for development of a space communications satellite?

**Mr. Kierans:** The government is committed to no one.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I wonder whether that question can be asked at this time. This question should be placed on the order paper, I suggest.

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce but in his absence I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary. Was permission given by anyone in that department for this report to be released or by anyone in the deputy minister's office?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge the reports as such have been received by the government and have not been released.

[Mr. Hales.]

**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS****PROPOSED LAY-OFF OF SECURITY STAFF,  
ATLANTIC REGION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** May I ask the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker, whether he is in a position today to report to the house the results of his discussion with Canadian National regarding the alleged proposal to cut back the Canadian National police force in the Atlantic region, which has been brought to his attention by a number of members including the hon. member for Moncton?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** I am not today, Mr. Speaker. When I was in Halifax on Monday a delegation of the policemen visited me on Monday morning. We had a discussion and I wired back for my departmental assistants to speed up the information. I have not had a chance yet to determine whether it is available and to look at it.

[Translation]

**TELEVISION****QUEBEC—REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING  
EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières):** Mr. Speaker, I wanted to put my question to the Secretary of State but, in his absence, I shall direct it to his parliamentary secretary.

In view of the fact that, within a few days, a federal-provincial conference on constitutional matters will be held and that the question of using television for educational purposes will certainly come up, has the Secretary of State or the government received from the province of Quebec an official communication stating its position on the use of educational broadcasting?

**Mr. Robert Stanbury (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State):** Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we have never received any proposal in that respect from the Quebec government, despite several requests.

However, I note that the Quebec premier has expressed the wish to discuss the matter at the next constitutional conference. I need not add that we shall welcome a frank and full discussion with the provincial governments on any subject of mutual concern.