

mediator in order to try avoiding the serious troubles that have developed and are apparently continuing at the Dorval airport?

I am more worried about the fact that the hon. minister does not at all seem to realize the seriousness of a situation which did not develop suddenly and which, on many occasions, was a cause for grievances and correspondence between his department and the Montreal taxi drivers' association.

Furthermore, the hon. minister, in his statement, is trying to minimize the basic problem which is, on the whole, unfair competition against the taxi drivers in the field of free enterprise. Taxi drivers are obviously entitled to protest, Mr. Speaker, that there is at Dorval a monopoly being enjoyed by a firm called Murray Hill. This is the only such situation existing at air terminals all over the world. According to the information I have been able to obtain, no other air terminal in the world has been granted by the governmental or any other authority an exclusive franchise in the matter of transportation.

● (3:20 p.m.)

I cannot understand why the hon. minister has not shown a more conciliatory attitude and why he would not try to understand the basic problem which is, in fact, a monopoly enjoyed at the expense of other private interests, free enterprise and taxi drivers, many of whom have a family to support and must earn a living.

Mr. Speaker, I think this matter was brought to the attention of the federal authorities last year. The situation was not so serious then, because a great number of tourists were going to Expo '67. Now that the situation is normal again, I believe that the taxi drivers are in a position where they are unable to do their work and earn a decent living. This problem is basically human and it comes under the federal authorities.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, the hon. minister should immediately appoint a mediator to try to reconcile the parties, in order to find formulas which would enable the two interested parties to agree.

The statement of the hon. minister does not satisfy me; certainly, it will not satisfy the interested parties and I am afraid the situation might worsen.

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** I would like to put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I remind the hon. member that we are on motions, and the

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

members of the opposition parties can make comments on the statement of the hon. minister. If there are no more comments we will revert to questions and I shall give the hon. member for Shefford the opportunity to put his question.

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make comments at this stage, since the question is often raised in the house and, as we can see, will come up again.

It seems to me that we should ask the interested parties, namely the Murray Hill company and the Association des propriétaires de taxis de la ville de Montréal, to appear before the committee on transport and communications, so that we might be informed on the two aspects of the question. After that we might make a better decision on the advisability of having a mediator appointed by the federal government in the present case.

[*English*]

### NATIONAL CAPITAL

#### INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development who curiously enough, it seems to me, is the minister reporting for the national capital. Having in mind the reported controversy between the Ontario officials and officials of the city of Ottawa respecting construction of buildings adjacent to the parliamentary buildings and the planning of the national capital downtown area, when will the minister make a decision as to the setting up of the parliamentary committee to consider all matters concerning the national capital? This committee was approved during the last parliament.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development):** Mr. Speaker, I do not have the slightest idea as to when this committee will be established, but it will certainly be done at the appropriate time and I hope it will be soon.

[*English*]

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister a supplementary question. Pending the setting up of the committee, will he find an appropriate opportunity to make a statement on behalf of the government and the people of