

*Inquiries of the Ministry***FREIGHT RATES****REPORTED HIGHER RATE ON BRITISH  
AUTOMOBILES**

172 and following citations. Let me refer hon. members to citation 176, which reads:

The "definite matter of urgent public importance", for the discussion of which the adjournment of the house may be moved under standing order 31, must be so pressing that public interest will suffer if it is not given immediate attention.

And may I also remind hon. members of the second paragraph in citation 174, which reads:

"Urgency" within this rule does not apply to the matter itself, but it means "urgency of debate", when the ordinary opportunities provided by the rules of the house do not permit the subject to be brought on early enough and public interest demands that discussion take place immediately.

This is a matter which has been under consideration by a royal commission for some considerable time. The report of the royal commission was tabled yesterday. I am sure there will be ample opportunity within the near future, under the rules of the house, to discuss the matter. I do not feel it is one which should be debated today, so as to interrupt the business which has been arranged for today. Therefore I cannot allow the matter to be proceeded with at this time.

**CUBAN SUGAR****IMPORTATION AND SALE IN CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. A. MacKenzie (Lambton-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are called I should like to ask a question of the Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce or, in his absence, the parliamentary assistant to the minister. In view of the fact that sugar beet growers in western Ontario are quite alarmed about the importation into Canada of fully refined sugar from Cuba, has the parliamentary assistant to the minister of trade and commerce any definite information as to what date the minister is scheduled to be in Cuba, in conference with the Cuban government officials, in an endeavour to come to an amicable agreement on the selling of fully refined Cuban sugar in this country?

**Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Trade and Commerce):** As hon. members are aware, there were two or three public announcements put out about the trip of the minister to Latin America. I understand he will be in Cuba on February 2, 3 and 4, and that a meeting will take place on February 4. I think that is public information that has been put out many times before.

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. R. Knight (Saskatoon):** Mr. Speaker I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Transport, of which I have given notice. Has it been brought to the minister's attention that a higher freight rate per mile is charged by the railways on British cars shipped to the prairies from Montreal than on Canadian cars shipped from Toronto Oshawa or Windsor? If so, has he considered action to end this discrimination?

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, dealing with the last part of the question first, let me say that the matter of discrimination is not one which can be handled by the minister. It is one which as a rule, is the responsibility of the board of transport commissioners when there is unjust discrimination. But there are cases where the railways, because of competitive rates, have the right to file certain tariffs.

In this case I am informed that current rates on domestic automobile traffic are dictated by competitive conditions which are said not to exist in relation to automobile imported from other countries.

**DAIRY INDUSTRY****UNITED STATES IMPORT RESTRICTIONS—ACTION BY  
CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. A. Earl Catherwood (Haldimand):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Has the government of Canada made representations to the government of the United States protesting against their most recent action in placing further restrictions against the importation of dairy products into that country, contrary to the Geneva agreement on tariffs and trade?

**Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Trade and Commerce):** The answer is no. Hon. members are no doubt aware of the changes now taking place in the United States administration. In the light of these changes, the government has been awaiting a favourable opportunity to review this whole question, and to decide what further representations should be made. It will be recalled that representations were made with respect to the first action taken by the United States government.

**Mr. Fleming:** Could the parliamentary assistant give us the date upon which the last representations were made on this subject to the United States government?