Inquiries of the Ministry

with exports of crude petroleum from Canada to the United States?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I cannot cover from my personal knowledge all that period since 1967. I think the hon. member ought to direct his question to the appropriate minister.

Mr. Woolliams: I think the Prime Minister misunderstood the question. Has a new confidential agreement that has been kept from the oil industry been made with the government of the United States about exports of crude petroleum?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before the Prime Minister replies I must remind the hon. member that questions ought to be directed to the Chair.

Mr. Woolliams: May I put the question to the Chair, sir?

Mr. Speaker: That is understood.

Mr. Woolliams: May I?

Some hon. Members: Answer.

Mr. Woolliams: Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister did not hear my question. I should like to ask it of the Prime Minister. Since 1967 has any confidential agreement that has been kept from the oil industry been entered into with the United States, under which the United States is to cut back exports of crude petroleum from this country to the United States? Does the Prime Minister not want to reply?

Mr. Trudeau: The question was not directed to Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary-

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

BELLEVILLE, ONT.—INVESTIGATION RESPECTING DEFECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the increasing number of reportedly defective railway cars found at the Belleville C.N.R. terminal, including a lack of proper brake pipe testing, will the minister take immediate steps in the interests of safety to delay the removal of any carmen at the end of June until such time as an investigation is conducted by the Board of Transport Commissioners?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I suspect that is entirely outside my responsibility, in terms of the removal of employees, however I will be glad to look at the question and convey the hon. member's representations to the C.N.R.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

JOSEPH DUFFOR—APPEARANCE BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Possibly the minister may wish to take it as notice and give me an answer tomorrow. Was Joseph Duffor hired by the Special Committee of Poverty in the other place? If so, on what basis was he selected for this position?

Mr. Speaker: I think this is a question which ought to be placed on the order paper, if it is in order at all.

COMMUNICATIONS

SUPPORT BY DR. O. M. SOLANDT OF BELL CANADA RATE INCREASE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Yesterday the hon. member for Wellington-Grey was ruled out of order when he attempted to ask the President of the Treasury Board a question concerning the appearance of Dr. Solandt, Chairman of the Science Council of Canada, before the Canadian Transport Commission in support of the application of the Bell Telephone Company for a rate increase.

In view of the fact that the public interest is involved to a considerable extent, and the importance of knowing on whose behalf and with what authority Dr. Solandt appeared, I ask the President of the Treasury Board if he will ascertain and let the house know as soon as convenient whether Dr. Solandt appeared on behalf of the Science Council of Canada, on his own personal initiative, or with the authorization of the government?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): I will be glad to, Mr. Speaker.

AGRICULTURE

D.D.T.—REASONS FOR BANNING OF USE IN SCANDINAVIA

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. I am glad to see he is here in the house in spite of the roster for today. Now that