

CREAM—REQUEST FOR RESCISSION OF
RECENT INCREASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): My question is supplementary to an earlier question asked of the Minister of Transport. On October 30 the parliamentary secretary replying for the Minister of Transport indicated that within a week or ten days the minister might have an answer to my question concerning freight rates on cream. Does the minister have a reply to that question now, or does he intend to reply to it at the same time he replies to the question concerning less than carload loadings?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Not today, Mr. Speaker.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
REPORTED LAY-OFF OF APPRENTICE
TELEGRAPHERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): Mr. Speaker, I have a related question for the Minister of Transport. Has the minister been advised that apprentice telegraphers right across Canada have been informed by the C.N.R. that they were permanently laid off as of November 1, even though they had received a commitment from the C.N.R. that they would be assured a 40-hour work week on a year round basis? If so does he plan to take any action to investigate this situation?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): I have not been made aware of this specific problem, Mr. Speaker, but I will certainly take the question as notice.

REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH UNION OFFICIALS
RESPECTING LAY-OFFS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): My question is for the Minister of Transport. Can he advise the house whether he has acceded to the request of the C.B. of R.T. to meet with the national president, Mr. William Smith, his regional vice presidents from across Canada, and other union representatives regarding the large scale lay-offs by the C.N.R. in the Atlantic region and other areas of Canada? If so, when will the requested meeting take place, where, and what cabinet ministers will be present?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): This is a question involving interdepartmental discussions. As my hon. friend has suggested, several ministers are involved and I do not have an answer yet.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question. In view of the fact that the lay-offs are now national in scope does the minister not consider it is time he met with officers of the C.N.R. and the C.P.R.?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member's question is argumentative.

CANADA PENSION PLAN

INQUIRY AS TO REFUNDS TO EMPLOYERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of National Revenue. It concerns the overpayment by employers of contributions to the Canada Pension Plan. This overpayment is estimated to be as high as \$15 million. The minister advised the house on April 25 that when a survey or a study had been made of the situation he would tell the house the method or form in which these overpayments would be refunded. Is the minister now in a position to make this statement?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): First of all, Mr. Speaker, I do not have the figure in front of me but the overpayment was vastly overestimated, and the figure turned out to be almost identical with what the government had forecast. Second, I would like to indicate that we are presently consulting one of the provinces on what action if any would be agreeable in this particular situation, and in due course we will consult all the provinces.

Mr. Hales: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Can the minister inform the house what is the amount he referred to?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether this type of information can be asked at this time.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NATO—APPOINTMENT OF ALLEGED FORMER
NAZI AS COMMANDER OF CENTRAL SECTOR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a verbal volley to