

Inquiries of the Ministry

reached in connection with a rail subsidy being given to look after the increase in wage rate.

Mr. Diefenbaker: In the first place, as Your Honour pointed out, it is an improper question. In the second place, any statement at this time, whether affirmative or negative, would not be beneficial in any way in securing an agreement between the parties.

PETERBOROUGH, ONT.—REFERENCE TO SPEECH
BY MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Walter Pitman (Peterborough): I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Labour. Is the minister now in a position to indicate whether the additional work referred to while he was in Peterborough during the by-election will soon be announced?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I received notice of this question, and it is in such general terms that I would refer the hon. member to the speech from the throne.

BROADCASTING

KOOTENAY WEST—REPORTED DENIAL OF RADIO
ADVERTISING FACILITIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): In view of my interest in the rights of legitimate and socially desirable free enterprise, I want to ask the Minister of National Revenue a question. In view of the fact that a local radio station in Kootenay West, owned by a local daily paper, has denied the use of its facilities for advertising to another local paper on the ground that it is a competitor, will the minister have this action on the part of the radio station investigated in order to determine whether it is a breach of the broadcasting law and regulations, and refer the question to the Minister of Justice to find out whether the terms of the Combines Investigation Act have been violated by this action?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member was good enough to send me a copy of his question. I have been somewhat concerned about the latter part of it. I think the early part might be asked of the Minister of National Revenue but in asking for an opinion as to whether the Combines Investigation Act has been violated it seems to me there is a contravention of the rule against seeking legal opinions or interpretations of statutes on the orders of the day.

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member well knows, all matters affecting broadcasting or the control and regulation of

broadcasting come within the purview of the board of broadcast governors. I will, of course, refer his question to that board for an answer. Of course, as Your Honour suggested, if there should be any infringement of other statutes that come under the jurisdiction of others of my colleagues, that part of the question should at the proper time be directed to them.

Mr. Herridge: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the reply given by the minister, will the Minister of Justice have this question investigated inasmuch as there is a good bit of concern about it? I have been requested to ask the question by people in business and others who are concerned with the principle.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member may be assured that any situation such as this that is drawn to our attention will receive early consideration.

AIRPORTS

FLIN FLON—INQUIRY AS TO AWARDING
OF CONTRACT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister inform the house whether a contract has been awarded for the construction of the Flin Flon airport? If so, who was the successful contractor?

Some hon. Members: Order paper.

Mr. Speaker: It is early in the session, and I think we should get off on a sound footing. A question asking for information of that kind should more properly go on the order paper.

Mr. Badanai: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I say this. The minister was informed a couple of days ago of my intention to ask the question, and probably he has the answer.

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): I should like to respect your ruling, Mr. Speaker.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REPORTED INTENTION OF MINISTER TO
VISIT WASHINGTON

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Is the minister going to visit Washington next week to discuss defence matters, as indicated in the press? If so, can he give the house any indication as to the matters which will be discussed at that time?