

Inquiries of the Ministry

UNITED NATIONS

DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOLLOWING
PERSECUTIONS BY U.S.S.R.

Mr. Aiken: A supplementary question which arises from the Prime Minister's appearance on television last night. Can we assume from his comments on television that in relation to pollution we are starting to get through to him on the need for pollution control?

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare, but since I do not see him in the house perhaps the Prime Minister would look into the matter. May I ask the Prime Minister to find out, when he is looking into the other matter, whether the Department of Health and Welfare is in touch with health departments in Europe regarding studies on the insecticide endosulfan, to see whether it is being used in Canada and what its effects might be on our waterways?

[Translation]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

CONSULTATIONS RESPECTING PENSIONS OF
RETIRED EMPLOYEES

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Transport.

Would he advise the house whether he intends to take steps in the near future in order to improve the retirement plan of the C.N.R.'s non-operating employees?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter for the Canadian National Railways in negotiation with its employees. I do not see that there is a role for me in this particular matter.

[Later:]

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. What action is being taken with regard to retired employees of the national railways which were incorporated into the C.N.R.? I think the government has a subsidiary responsibility here.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will refer to the late show of about four nights ago, he will see that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and I had quite an exchange on the matter. I will spare the house the prospect of my reading it all over again.

Mr. Walter Deakon (High Park): Mr. Speaker, may I direct this question to the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the new wave of persecutions perpetrated by the government of the U.S.S.R. against Ukrainians, Czechoslovakians and other minority groups behind the iron curtain, and because the Soviet Union is one of the signatories to the United Nations declaration of human rights, would the government consider requesting that this subject matter be placed in the agenda of the United Nations?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, this is a long-standing and difficult problem to which continuous attention has been given, but in the light of the representations made by the hon. member we will look into it again.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING
CORPORATION

POSSIBILITY OF FREEZE ON EXPENDITURES

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State whether it is government policy to put a freeze on the budget of the C.B.C. for the next five years?

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

REQUEST FOR MEETING OF STANDING
COMMITTEE

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In the temporary absence of the chairman of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, would the minister use his good offices to make arrangements to have the committee meet as soon as possible, since a number of undertakings were made with which the committee should deal, as well as a number of reports, and we may be getting close to the end of the session?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I assume that committee decisions as to meeting times are pretty much a matter for the committee itself, but any help that I can give I shall be more than pleased to give.

Mr. Nesbitt: A supplementary question. Perhaps the minister misunderstood the first