

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** In light of the Manitoba election maybe there is ground for a blanket policy to drop these charges because of the very small amount of grain involved.

**Mr. Lang:** It would be improper if one allowed such a consideration to influence one's judgment on this question.

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**SPORTS**

**HOCKEY—SIGNING OF UNDER AGE PLAYERS BY PROFESSIONAL CLUBS—REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET WITH WHA AND NHL**

**Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could direct a question to the mobile Minister of National Health and Welfare; I see he is returning to his seat. In view of the concern expressed by Canadians regarding the implications of the signing of under age players to big league, professional hockey contracts, does the minister intend to meet with the World Hockey Association and the National Hockey League in an attempt to resolve this issue?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I sent a telegram to the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, the National Hockey League and the World Hockey Association last week. I am meeting with the first organization on Thursday afternoon, the second on Friday, and I hope to meet with the third during the course of next week in order to try to get these organizations to arrive at a satisfactory agreement.

**Mr. Rose:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister is in a position at the moment to reveal to the House the government's policy in respect of leaving players as juniors until age 20, a policy threatened by the recent WHA intervention.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Mr. Speaker, I have already expressed to the organizations involved our concern about the possibility of a return to the situation that existed before the most recent agreement. But we are going to try to encourage the parties to arrive at a negotiated agreement between all of them, rather than impose a solution.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, in connection with the answer just given by the minister, outside of using his good offices to bring together representatives of the World Hockey Association, the National Hockey League and the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association—I am asking this question for information—is there anything to prevent the further piracy of teenage players by the WHA? Has the minister been able to ascertain any power in the federal government that would permit action to be taken—and effective action?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Not that I know of at the present time, but obviously parliament can always decide to give the government further powers if necessary.

[Mr. Lang.]

**PATENTS**

**REQUEST THAT ANNUAL REPORT OF CANADIAN PATENTS AND DEVELOPMENT LIMITED BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. On May 30 last I asked a question dealing with Canadian Patents and Development Limited. I again asked the minister a similar question on June 12, at which time he referred me to a letter containing a proposal that I speak directly to the officers of Canadian Patents and Development Limited. That meeting took place last Friday and proved to be fruitless. I therefore—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Would the hon. member ask the question. There are just five or six minutes left before the end of the question period.

**Mr. Dick:** For that reason I am asking whether or not the annual report of Canadian Patents and Development Limited will now be referred to the miscellaneous estimates committee.

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I will take note of the hon. gentleman's representation.

**Mr. Dick:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think it is only fair to point out that on May 30 the President of the Treasury Board said he would take note of it. On June 12 he proposed another solution. He is moving about continuously in this way. He should come to a decision.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That takes care of a minute of the question period.

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**TRANSPORT**

**REQUEST FOR TRILEVEL COMMITTEE STUDY OF TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO**

**Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport, if he is listening. My question arises from the meeting the minister had two weeks ago with the Midwestern Development Council. Can the minister tell the House whether he is willing to accede to the request of the Midwestern Development Council that a trilevel committee be immediately struck to look into the problems of rail transportation and all transportation in southwestern Ontario?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** I think I have to meet with the minister from Ontario. I am expecting an answer from the CTC, as I mentioned last time. I do not think I can give an answer right away.

**Mr. Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether the minister heard my question. I was not referring to the announcement of a policy for southwestern Ontario, but whether or not he is willing to accede to the request that a trilevel committee