

Inquiries of the Ministry

establishment of a veterans affairs committee at this session in order that the committee may give consideration to the recent representations of the Canadian Legion and the national council of veterans?

Hon. Hugues Lapointe (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend is aware, the dominion council of the Legion met with the cabinet early this week. They presented their annual brief which, I might point out, is directed to the cabinet and not to a parliamentary committee. However, the question of establishing a veterans affairs committee this session has not yet been considered.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF FIFTH MEMBER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe). Can the minister say whether an early fifth appointment to the Canadian wheat board is likely to be made, and whether the man to be appointed will be one who enjoys the confidence of the organized farmers?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, if and when a fifth member has been appointed I shall be very glad to announce it in the house.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

LAY-OFFS OF PERSONNEL, CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS AND CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier). Is the government aware of the lay-offs by the Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific railways at various points in Canada? Will steps be taken to halt these lay-offs and to provide for the reinstatement of those already out of employment?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I believe the officers of the Canadian National Railways made an announcement some time ago to the effect that there would be lay-offs in the car department and the locomotive repair department of the railways. I think the Canadian Pacific Railway made a similar statement and went on to give reasons therefor, namely, reduction in traffic and in business generally.

When the traffic is returned to normal or when it is increased from its present position I am sure the Canadian National Railways

[Mr. Herridge.]

will be glad to take on the men who have been laid off. Meanwhile, I have had a word with my colleague, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Gregg), who assures me that in so far as the unemployment insurance commission is concerned it is giving every consideration to finding employment for those men.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

DESIGNATION OF LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Daniel McIvor (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Prime Minister. Am I correct in saying that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) is still "right honourable"? If so, we can act accordingly.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. A. H. HOLLINGWORTH AND SECONDED BY MR. GEORGES VILLENEUVE

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mr. A. H. Hollingworth (York Centre): It is indeed a signal honour accorded to me to move the adoption of the speech from the throne at this opening of our twenty-second parliament, but I feel even prouder that it is an honour accorded to the residents of the new riding of York Centre. I wish, therefore, to thank the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) for this privilege on behalf of my constituents and myself.

I shall speak but briefly about York Centre. It is one of the three new constituencies in the greater Toronto area and consists of about 95,000 people, most of whom live in the township of North York on the northern fringes of the city of Toronto. Indeed, the township of North York is now in effect a part of the metropolitan area of greater Toronto. The township is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Canada and the tremendous problems raised by the vast residential, commercial and industrial expansion can only be met at all levels of government.

The township of North York is known for its excellent schools, its splendid municipal and school administration and for its predominant number of young people, most of whom, like myself, have at least two children and a mortgage. One of the problems facing us is the lack of adequate postal delivery, a condition resulting in part at least from the