

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct the attention of the Acting Prime Minister to the problems which confronted members of the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works. Because of many conflicts the Minister of Public Works appeared before that committee for only two hours on the day before the time for study expired under the rules. That is another committee which should be looked at.

Mr. Woolliams: I wonder if I could ask a supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. members will appreciate that we are getting pretty far from the question period. This is just an ordinary, or perhaps extraordinary, debate during the question period. I will call on the hon. member for Calgary North for a supplementary and then I will recognize the hon. member for York South.

REQUEST THAT ESTIMATES OF SOME DEPARTMENTS BE CONSIDERED BY HOUSE

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the Acting Prime Minister's statement that we agreed with the new rules. If he checks the speeches made by myself and others on this side he will see that we asked that the opposition have the right to request during each session of Parliament that four or five departments be brought in so that the pursestrings of the nation would still be controlled by Parliament. Would the Acting Prime Minister accept that suggestion and make a recommendation to the appropriate committee?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know that these suggestions will command the attention of the House leader and the committee that looks after procedures of the House. I have no hesitation in saying that I do not want a repetition of what happened last night and I do not think anyone here would. I believe we have made great advances in the consideration of the estimates. I reject the suggestion put forward that the House does not have—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sharp:—greater control than it ever had before.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is debate. The hon. member for York South.

Mr. Baldwin: Is that why you have only got five bills for Royal Assent?

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COMMUNICATIONS

BELL CANADA RATE INCREASES—REQUEST THAT APPELLANT, DR. LLOYD BROWN-JOHN, BE PROVIDED WITH COPY OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the Minister of Communications. Some time ago I asked him some questions about the increase in rates granted Bell Canada and drew his atten-

Inquiries of the Ministry

tion to the fact that a gentleman in Windsor was appealing those rates. May I ask the minister whether he has completed his study of the various documents filed with the Canadian Transport Commission and whether he has given consideration to assisting this Canadian citizen in his appeal against these rate increases?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his patience. I hope to be able to conclude next week what action, if any, I should recommend on this matter, and perhaps I can convey that to him then. As far as the next part of the question is concerned, I have advised Dr. Lloyd Brown-John that I have a copy of the transcript of the hearings of the Canadian Transport Commission which he is most welcome to use as he wishes and to copy whatever parts of it he may require.

Mr. Lewis: I am not sure that I am patient; I am just not entirely awake, I suspect. May I ask the minister whether he offered to give Dr. Brown-John a copy of the transcript or was it an offer for him to come and study it here? I am asking the question because I think this Canadian ought to be given every possible assistance.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The first part of the hon. member's question is acceptable but the second part is, of course, an explanation or representation. The minister might reply to the first part of the question.

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Speaker, I have not offered to supply a copy of the transcript to anyone who might choose to bring an appeal against any decision of the Canadian Transport Commission. I am not sure that would be appropriate. What I have offered is access to the copy that I have, and I am quite willing to have it go to Windsor if that is more convenient to Dr. Brown-John. I have not had any request from him up to this point.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask the minister whether he would lend me his copy of the transcript so that a copy of it may get to Dr. Brown-John?

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to have a visit from the hon. member at any time to share all my utmost secrets with him.

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CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

ALLEGED REFUSAL BY INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CORPORATION TO PERMIT VISIT TO RESOLUTION ISLAND BY NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COUNCILLOR

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. It is based on a very serious report alleging that a member of the Northwest Territories Council while on a visit to his constituency was, when he attempted to visit Resolution Island in Frobisher Bay, forbidden entry to that island by the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation of the United States. Has the minister heard of this report and has he done anything to convey the view