

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Douglas:** As a result of the investigation which the minister undertook to make is he now in a position to say whether Studebaker is liable for any amount of money by virtue of the Volkswagen cars which were brought into Canada under the auto agreement?

**Mr. Benson:** Not at this point.

**Mr. Starr:** I have a further supplementary question. In view of the report of the Auditor General that the company involved is one which ceased operation on March 17, 1966, could the minister tell me what other company ceased operation on March 17, 1966?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Benson:** Ask the Auditor General.

[Translation]

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

PROTESTS RESPECTING PROGRAM  
"TIREZ AU CLAIR"

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. Secretary of State of Canada.

Having listened to the last two broadcasts of "Tirez au Clair", it seems obvious to me that the producer has only one purpose: to make propaganda for socialism. Could the minister tell the house whether she intends to take appropriate action to subdue the socialist army which controls our national radio broadcasting system?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The question is definitely out of order in its present form.

**Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe):** May I ask a supplementary question, in due form?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Since the question is out of order, a supplementary question cannot be asked.

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Speaker, may I frame the question in such a way as to make it acceptable?

**Mr. Speaker:** I shall be glad to recognize the hon. member in a few minutes.

[Mr. Benson.]

[English]

**LABOUR RELATIONS**

RAILWAY DISPUTE—REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF ARBITRATION BOARD

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Is it his intention to accede to the request of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers for the immediate appointment of a board of arbitrators, as provided for in the Railway Operations Act and as urged in a recent telegram to the minister?

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I am very glad the hon. member has asked this question because it gives me an opportunity to correct an erroneous impression that seems to be in the minds of some people at least, as I gather from a news report that was brought to my attention just before the house convened.

There has been no refusal on the part of the Minister of Labour to set up any board of arbitration. What happened was that parliament directed that first there should be mediation. There were four groups of unions involved. One group withdrew from the mediation process after it had been in progress for several weeks. That is the group referred to in the wire mentioned by my hon. friend. The three other groups proceeded with the mediation. I would say that the bargaining committees for 75,000 of the 118,000 or 119,000 workers involved have accepted by overwhelming votes the settlements worked out under the guidance of the mediator. Representatives of one of the other union groups met with me earlier this week, and we had what I think was a useful discussion.

The fourth group, the C.B. of R.T., who withdrew from the mediation have requested arbitration, but until you know whether you are going to arbitrate for one group or more it is very difficult—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I must interrupt the hon. minister. I appreciate that he is anxious to give to the hon. member all the information at his command, but the answer should perhaps be briefer. It appears to the Chair that such a statement should be made on motions rather than in answer to a question.