

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, November 22, 1962

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

### VETERANS AFFAIRS

CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. D. V. Pugh (Okanagan-Boundary)** presented the first report of the standing committee on veterans affairs, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

### CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

CONSTRUCTION OF BRANCH LINE FROM NEPISIGUIT JUNCTION, N.B.

**Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport)** moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution which has been recommended to the house by His Excellency:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to authorize and provide for the construction of a line of railway in the province of New Brunswick, by Canadian National Railway Company, from Nepisiguit Junction for a distance of 15 miles to the property of Brunswick Mining and Smelting Corporation Limited, at a total estimated expenditure of \$1,450,000, not to be exceeded by more than 15 per cent; to authorize the issue by the said railway company of securities that may be guaranteed by Her Majesty in right of Canada to finance the construction of the said line; and in order that the said railway company may forthwith proceed with the construction of the said line of railway, to authorize temporary loans to the said railway company out of the consolidated revenue fund upon terms and conditions prescribed by the governor in council and secured by securities of the said railway company.

Motion agreed to.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

INQUIRY AS TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE POLICY

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government has come to any decision with regard to recommending to the house the establishment of a special committee on defence policy.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** The government will make known its decision in this regard very shortly. I did

not hear the last word of the question. Was it "defence matters" or "defence policy"?

**Mr. Pearson:** "Defence policy".

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** In so far as defence policy is concerned, as in the past, when the hon. gentleman was a member of the former government, so today and so, generally, throughout the free world, questions of policy are not submitted to committees.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** A supplementary question. Does the Prime Minister think television facilities should be afforded to officials of the department to do the very thing which the Prime Minister now says parliament shall not have an opportunity to do.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The hon. gentleman is apparently off on the wrong track. I did not say "parliament"; I said a "committee".

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Well, surely, a committee of parliament is parliament.

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

KASHMIR—POSSIBILITY OF MEDIATION BY CANADA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** My question is directed to the Prime Minister. In the light of the apparently favourable reaction of the president of Pakistan to the Prime Minister's suggestion of Canadian good offices in the mediation of the Kashmir dispute, can the Prime Minister tell the house if there has been any reaction from New Delhi?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** There is nothing further to add to what was said in this house during the course of my remarks the other day. Until I am in a position to say something with finality, I think the hon. member will understand that the question might better remain in abeyance.

**Mr. Brewin:** Has the government, in the light of the close and friendly relations which have been maintained between Canada and India, conveyed to the Indian government any formal proposal as to mediation in the Kashmir dispute?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The statement which was made in the house has been sent to both India and Pakistan.