

## TRANSPORT

SUGGESTED CURTAILMENT OF RAILWAY  
PASSENGER SERVICE—GOVERNMENT  
REPRESENTATION BY COUNSEL  
AT HEARINGS

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, it seems to be the Minister of Transport's day. I should like to direct a question to him arising out of the virtually general objection on the part of cities, towns, people in general and the employees of the railway companies against the applications that have been made by the Canadian Pacific Railway and Canadian National Railways to the Canadian Transport Commission to permit those companies to almost wipe out passenger transportation across Canada. With a view to assuring that every objection will be taken to these applications, and in the national interest, will the minister consider having counsel appointed by the federal government to place before the Canadian Transport Commission the general objection to action which is regarded as a cavalier disregard of the responsibilities of these railway companies?

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the distinct impression that this very question was asked last week. If I am wrong the minister should reply.

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, it was asked last week but perhaps the right hon. gentleman was not present so maybe you will permit me to answer again. Whether we will do this in precisely the way the right hon. gentleman has suggested I am not certain, but I can assure the House that every effort will be made to ensure that all representations are put to the commissioners in this regard. I should like to remind the House and the right hon. gentleman that there is an appeal from any judgment to the Governor in Council, and under these circumstances it would seem to me that the public interest in this matter is quite well protected. However, if there is some other course that needs to be taken I shall be more than happy to consider it.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, and may I direct it either to the Minister of Transport or the Acting Prime Minister. May I now have an answer to the question I asked the last time the Solicitor General was Acting Prime Minister, whether an effort will be made to have these hearings in public?

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the House that where there is a contentious matter of any kind it is not within my purview to instruct the CTC to do so, but I have already made representations to them to ensure that where the public interest is demonstrably present there should be public hearings.

**Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque):** A supplementary question for the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister assure the House that it is not his ambition to extend the present rail passenger policy in Newfoundland to the whole country?

## SCIENCE SERVICES

TRANSFER OF QUEEN ELIZABETH  
OBSERVATORY ASSETS

**Mr. Bruce Howard (Okanagan Boundary):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has the announcement that Queen's University has indicated its intention of joining the western universities' telescope consortium in any way altered the government's intention to transfer the assets of the Queen Elizabeth Observatory to the consortium? If not, when can we expect the transaction to be completed?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am not sure that this is a matter of urgency. I would think this question might be debated during the adjournment proceedings.

[Translation]

## NATIONAL REVENUE

TOBACCO—EFFECT OF POSSIBLE ELIMINATION  
OF ADVERTISING ON TAX COLLECTED

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue.

Since the Minister of National Health and Welfare stated that it would now be possible to ban tobacco advertising on radio, does the Minister of National Revenue agree with this policy, taking into account the importance of this source of revenue for his department?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The way it was asked, I do not think the question should be allowed.