

## INQUIRY FOR RETURN

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES—CIVIL SERVANTS—  
WEEKLY WORK PERIODS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** In the absence of the Secretary of State (Mr. Bradley) I should like to direct a question to the appropriate minister. This relates to questions of mine which were passed as an order for return on November 28, reported on page 236 of *Votes and Proceedings*. My questions had to do with the five-day week for civil service and government employees. I wonder if I may expect this return before the end of the session.

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** I shall have the matter looked into.

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

RADAR SCREEN—REFERENCE TO ARTICLES IN  
MONTREAL "HERALD"

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition):** On Thursday last I directed a question to the Minister of National Defence in regard to very detailed articles which had appeared in regard to our radar screen and, in view of the positive statements which had been made as to the deficiencies of that screen, asked him to explain. At the time the minister stated he had not seen the articles, and I should like to ask him now if he is in position to make a statement.

**Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence):** I realize that the leader of the opposition was not in the house yesterday when I made a statement in that regard.

## NATIONAL GALLERY

INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES—EXPENDITURES—APPOINT-  
MENT OF OFFICERS, ETC.

**Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)** moved the third reading of Bill No. 42, respecting the National Gallery of Canada.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

## CIVIL SERVICE ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING TENURE OF OFFICE  
AND SALARIES OF COMMISSIONERS

**Hon. Alphonse Fournier (for the Secretary of State)** moved the third reading of Bill No. 43, to amend the Civil Service Act.

## Canadian National Railways

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

**Mr. Knowles:** On division.

Motion agreed to on division and bill read the third time and passed.

## CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

PROVISION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE CAPITAL  
EXPENDITURES, TO ISSUE SECURITIES, ETC.

**Hon. Alphonse Fournier (for the Minister of Finance)** moved the second reading of Bill No. 45, to authorize the provision of moneys to meet certain commitments for new equipment incurred by the Canadian National Railways system during the calendar year 1951, and to authorize the guarantee by His Majesty of certain securities to be issued by the Canadian National Railways.

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** May we have an explanation?

**Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, while this bill stands in the name of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) it concerns the financing of Canadian National Railways, so perhaps I could give the explanation. The short title is Canadian National Railways Financing and Guarantee Act (No. 2), 1951. Hon. members may ask why there is a second act of this type this year.

The house will recall that the annual Canadian National Railways financing bill passed at the first session of this year contained an unusual clause which permitted the Canadian National Railways, subject to the approval of the governor in council, to make commitments in 1951 for the purchase of equipment which it was not expected would be delivered in 1951, but in 1952 or perhaps later. Orders could not be placed without government authority. On June 19, 1951, I placed on *Hansard* a list of the equipment for which commitments were to be authorized; the total amount of the commitments was not to exceed \$111,512,920.

The house will realize that normally this financing and guarantee act comes to it in May or June of the usual session. We are now informed that some of this equipment will be delivered sooner than expected and prior to June 30 next year. The present bill simply provides that the usual guarantees can be given for the financing of this equipment to the extent of \$55,581,816, which it is expected is the value of the equipment that