

log of freight is moved in time to prevent shortages, and what steps will he take to make sure that there is no further disruption in that service?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think that the answer given a moment ago by the Minister of Transport indicates that the government viewed this interruption of service with great concern and impressed upon the company the necessity to bring in supplementary vessels, as it did, to the extent the minister indicated, that the company took all it could.

On the constitutional question, I am sure the hon. member realizes that the freedom of people to work or not to work applies even to Newfoundlanders, and that when the CNR itself reached an agreement with the heads of the union that this work would not be interrupted it was something the government pressed for and obtained. If some people in the Maritimes refused to obey the understanding of their leaders, then surely the fight of the hon. member should be with his fellow Newfoundlanders and Maritimers who refused to deliver this service which the government had arranged.

Mr. McGrath: In view of the fact that the government's constitutional responsibility in this matter clearly supercedes any other consideration—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McGrath:—and in view of the fact that this service is a vital lifeline between the province of Newfoundland and the mainland of Canada, the disruption of which causes food shortages and all other kinds of inconveniences, is it the intention of the government to take this important service out of the hands of the CN and operate it directly by the government of Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will remember that the minister himself indicated that this was one of the courses he was considering, but the hon. member will have to realize also that if this is done we will have to have men to work those ferries, and if the people of that area refuse to work them, perhaps against the desires and even the benefits of their fellow islanders and Maritimers—

An hon. Member: Blame the workers.

Mr. Trudeau: No, I am not blaming the workers.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Who stopped the ferries?

Mr. Trudeau: I should like the hon. member who interrupted me to realize that the government made every arrangement for the ferries to continue and that it did not stop the service. It was the workers at that place who stopped the service.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley.

Mr. Lundrigan: On a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate rises on a question of privilege.

Oral Questions

Mr. Lundrigan: I do not enjoy taking extra time of the House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: May we have order, please. There are just five minutes before the end of the question period.

Mr. Lundrigan: Your Honour, no one enjoys taking extra time of the House but the Prime Minister today, I am sure very inadvertently, misled the House with respect to the workers of the CNR on the east coast. He had a little bit of information fed to him by his office which is partly wrong and partly true. What he said applies to the operation of ferries carrying passengers. At no time did CNR workers or the government make arrangements that produce and freight would be carried during the strike. The Prime Minister today gave the impression that the government had an agreement with CNR workers to carry produce and other freight to the island. He also gave the impression that it was the workers who reneged on this. It was the CNR that inspired the workers to discontinue the ferry passenger service.

Some hon. Members: Sit down!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member resume his seat. The hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley.

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, I realize the Prime Minister has had some difficult questions to answer. I have a very easy one for him now if he could only answer it.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

Mr. Gleave: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. A great part of this question period has been taken up by a series of points of order and questions of privilege. My point of privilege is that we at this end of the House have not been able to ask the government questions which are important to us, simply because of the behavior of the members to my right.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley.

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● (1520)

BROADCASTING

COVERAGE OF 1976 OLYMPIC GAMES—ALLEGED SAVING BY ACCEPTING CTV OFFER—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, I hope that this time I will be able to finish my question to the Prime Minister and get an answer. Can the Prime Minister advise the House if the government is prepared to reconsider CTV's offer to participate in the telecasting of the 1976 Olympic Games by utilizing their