

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**LABOUR RELATIONS****WITHDRAWAL OF C.N.T.U. FROM FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke):** I should like to put a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Is it true that the minister, as chairman of a ministerial committee, has received an address from the Quebec Liberal members at Ottawa concerning the grievances of the C.N.T.U. and the attitude of the C.L.R.B.? As the problem is urgent, will the said committee, or the government, make its decision known on that subject shortly?

**Mr. Speaker:** The question, as put by the hon. member, is not acceptable.

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Speaker, could it be put in another form?

**Mr. Speaker:** It would be rather difficult. It could be put in another way at ten o'clock.

**Mr. Allard:** Ten o'clock.

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Speaker, could I rephrase the question so as to make it acceptable?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Sherbrooke has just told of his intention to raise the question on the adjournment motion.

[English]

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE****REQUEST FOR OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the government house leader as to the work with which we will be proceeding today. Last Tuesday, November 15, was the last day the government announced the business for the consideration of the house. It was proposed that the estimates of the National Research Council, the Medical Research Council, the Department of Trade and Commerce and the Department of Transport, in that order, would be considered by the house.

Last night no announcement was made as to what would be proceeded with today, so consequently we took it for granted on this side of the house that the order of business announced on November 15 would be followed. However, today, in answer to a question the Secretary of State for External

[Mr. Greene.]

Affairs (Mr. Martin) intimated that he would be making a statement later this day. We have been prepared to deal with matters in the sequence in which they were announced last Tuesday, and it would be most unfair if that sequence were broken with something else.

If the minister wishes to have his estimates considered today and make a statement at that time, I believe those estimates should follow after the items which were called on November 15. We should proceed in that orderly fashion so that we can have a good debate when the time comes to consider his estimates.

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry if there is any misunderstanding about this matter.

**Mr. Starr:** It is down in *Hansard* in black and white.

**Mr. McIlraith:** I am of the opinion that I spoke with the house leader for the official opposition about this matter yesterday. I believe that following the return of the Secretary of State for External Affairs there was some discussion with the house leader of the official opposition, as well as with other house leaders, about the wisdom of having the minister's statement made, not on motions, but on the estimates of his department. The intimation was that we would call his estimates first in order to permit that to be done in a way that would be agreeable to all hon. members. It is now clear, however, that there are some who have misunderstood.

**Mr. Herridge:** We don't know anything about it.

**Mr. Starr:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise on a point of order. I remember meeting the government house leader—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. May I suggest that we hear the government house leader, and then perhaps there might be a point of order.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Speaker, if there is some misunderstanding about this, and I believe there is, then I am not prepared to be very assertive about the position. I would hope we could arrange some mutually agreeable point at which this could be done, because I would emphasize that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has returned from a rather important trip, and I think it would be desirable that his statement be put on record by some method at an early opportunity.