

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

In view of the government's increased interest in all aspects of education, is consideration being given to Canada joining the international education organization sponsored by UNESCO rather than continuing to send an observer who has neither voice nor vote, at about the same cost?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Yes.

**MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND**

## INQUIRY AS TO EXTENSION OF PERIOD

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** I wish to address a question to the Minister of Finance. Under the terms of the municipal development loan fund, projects must be completed by March 31 if they are to qualify for grants. Would the minister consider extending this date, since some of the smaller municipalities through no fault of their own have had to conduct protracted processes before obtaining approval and will not be able to finish their projects in time to qualify? This means a great deal to them.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** May I say to the hon. member that I will take his representations into account when I reply to the hon. member for Red Deer, who asked a similar question the other day.

**TRANSPORT**

## INQUIRY INTO DELAYS IN GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO WEST COAST

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat):** I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance arising out of conflicting statements made by the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Vancouver Board of Trade and other interested parties on the movement of grain to the west coast. Has the government initiated any action to ascertain the facts in this matter so the bottleneck which is obstructing this movement can be located? Certainly the statements made on behalf of the C.P.R., the Board of Trade in Vancouver, the terminal elevators and other interested parties do not agree.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** I expect that at the opening of the house tomorrow or perhaps the next day I shall be able to announce some steps which have been taken to improve the co-ordination of grain movements to the west coast.

[Mr. Herridge.]

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** I wonder whether the Minister of Finance could verify the figures which were given to the press by an aide to the Minister of Agriculture and reported in last Friday's *Globe and Mail* to the effect that the C.P.R. was some 8,000 box cars behind and the C.N.R. 6,500 cars behind. Would the minister in giving his reply ascertain whether these figures are correct and, if so, tell us what is the reason for this very large backlog?

**Mr. Sharp:** I did suggest to the hon. gentleman that this is a question he should put on the order paper, and I have been expecting it to appear.

**Mr. Douglas:** On a question of privilege, the minister has just said he was prepared to make a statement with reference to box cars. All I am asking is whether figures which were given by an aide to the Minister of Agriculture are correct. Surely he does not need a question on the order paper to tell us whether figures issued by a government official are right. As a matter of fact he ought to be able to tell us now.

**SECOND FERRY BETWEEN NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW ENGLAND**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg):** I have a question for the Minister of Transport. The announced lay-up for refit of the ferry *Bluenose* again accentuates the need for a second ferry between Nova Scotia and New England. Would the minister inform the house, and especially the people of Nova Scotia, of the progress being made in this matter and whether we can expect an announcement soon from his department indicating that this necessary transportation link will be started or provided this year?

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** I do not think it would be possible for me to make any statement at this time but I will endeavour, when the estimates are up for consideration to be in a position to discuss the matter.

[Translation]

**WINTER WORKS**

## QUEBEC—DELAY IN PAYMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance or to the Minister of Labour.