

in the Canadian National police force in the Atlantic region, which has been brought to his attention by the hon. member for Moncton and myself on several occasions?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** Not yet, Mr. Speaker. I have had further conversations with the company since the last time my hon. friend raised the question. I am awaiting a report back from the company subsequent to that discussion.

#### TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

##### ABSENCE OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN— CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** My question is directed to the President of the Privy Council in his capacity as house leader. Is the hon. gentleman aware of the fact that the standing committee on transport and communications met this morning but is now deadlocked without a chairman, and hence unable to deal with matters of urgent public importance before it? While the minister is on his feet, would he assure the house that the house will be in a position soon to deal with the first report of the committee, which is now before the house but in which as yet there has been no concurrence?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of both these matters. I am sure the hon. member regrets as much as I do the fact that the chairman of the committee, the hon. member for Manicouagan, had to enter the Royal Victoria hospital last night for surgery. I think perhaps I would be expressing the sentiments of the house if I were to say that we hope the surgery will be successful and we will soon have him with us again.

I have had discussion with hon. gentlemen opposite about a future or further order of reference to the standing committee on transport and communications. My understanding is that the committee expressed an interest in studying the question of transportation in the Atlantic provinces. This was indicated in the first report. The committee also indicated an interest in studying a particular dispute related to the Canadian National.

As I pointed out to the hon. member for Oxford, it has been the government's intention to refer the annual reports of both Canadian National and Air Canada to the committee. It was the government's suggestion also that not only should the committee

#### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

study Atlantic province problems but that in view of the notoriously good climate there any time of the year, and particularly in the month of January, the committee should be empowered to visit the region for the purpose of studying transportation problems. My suggestion was that this rather broader order of reference might be substituted for the committee's report in this regard, and that the house might agree to putting these two orders, thereby empowering the committee to meet possibly early in January for this purpose.

**Mr. McGrath:** A supplementary question. Would the house leader advise the house what is the position of the resolution that was passed by the committee dealing with the decision of the Canadian Transport Commission allowing the Canadian National to abandon rail passenger service in Newfoundland, which was not incorporated in the first report of the committee to which I referred in my original question?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I have not studied this; I am advised the resolution was passed but that it was out of order.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Under the circumstances I take it that it is null and has no effect, but I have not examined the question.

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. There is no evidence anywhere in the committee's report that the resolution in question is out of order. It was passed by a majority of the committee members present. The only problem was that the Liberals did not have enough members there to defeat the resolution. That is the only bad part of it. The house leader and his whip have a responsibility, which I hope they take, to get their members out to the committee. I say it is a good resolution, and it should be included in the report.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** The first thing to be said is that I am glad that through my intervention in this debate we have restored the hon. member's voice to him. I can only say that we will make every effort to assist if hon. members wish to continue the committee's studies along the line I have indicated, both of the Atlantic transportation problem and of Air Canada and the Canadian National Railways. If so perhaps there might be agreement to adopting this as the order of reference for the committee for the rest of the