

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

whether he can make a statement at this time. I believe he does have a statement to make on this subject.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The statement should be made at a time appropriate for ministerial statements.

**Mr. Kindt:** May I rephrase my question, Mr. Speaker. Have the negotiations been completed with the Japanese authorities or industrialists, regarding coal shipments to Japan?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I think the best way I can answer is by saying that the negotiations of which I am most aware are taking part in this part of the world, in Canada, between the producers of the coal and the transport companies.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****CANADIAN OBSERVERS AT URUGUAY MEETING OF WESTERN COUNTRIES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. Can he advise the house whether Canada has accepted an invitation to send an observer delegation to the forthcoming and extremely important summit conference of western hemispheric leaders at Punta del Este in Uruguay?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, at the last meeting of the Organization of American States there was a Canadian observer. The meeting to which my hon. friend directs our attention is a meeting of the heads of states, and so far as I am now aware no provision is made for the inclusion in those discussions of persons from the governments of non-member countries.

**NORTH VIET NAM—REQUEST FOR CESSATION OF BOMBING**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. It is a very straightforward question which I believe he can answer yes or no.

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

**Mr. Knowles:** Is it not time for Canada to say clearly that the bombing of North Viet Nam should stop?

[Mr. Kindt.]

**Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure my hon. friend is aware that the government has indicated that in the opinion of the Canadian government a cessation of the bombing is one of the key factors. Another key factor is what action is taken by the other side to make it possible for both parties to engage in preliminary discussions that might lead to a negotiated settlement.

Undoubtedly my hon. friend is aware that at this time this matter is very much engaging the attention of a number of governments, including the government of Canada.

**Mr. Knowles:** As a supplementary question, shouldn't the bombing stop now?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I think it would be very useful if there were a cease fire on both sides.

[Translation]

**TRANSPORT****PROPOSED REDUCTION IN RAILWAY SERVICE BETWEEN QUEBEC AND SHERBROOKE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Transport and it is very urgent, since the Quebec Central Railway intends to proceed before April 30.

Has the minister received protests against the elimination of passenger trains Nos. 1, 2 and 4 between Quebec and Sherbrooke and is it his intention, in the public interest, to recommend that the Quebec Central Railway reconsider its decision.

**Mr. Speaker:** This question should be put on the order paper.

**Mr. Allard:** At ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**BRITISH COLUMBIA—STATEMENT BY LABOUR MINISTER RESPECTING BURRARD INLET CROSSING**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour and ask whether he made an announcement in Vancouver yesterday regarding a third crossing for Burrard inlet, and will he tell the house the nature of this announcement?

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I did make such announcement,