

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture referred to him the question which I asked last Thursday about this particular problem. In view of the fact that on January 5 there will be further increases in the cost of imports of concentrates for feed to all the producers in the Atlantic area, what is the minister or the Canadian Transport Commission going to do about this? Has this question been referred to the minister?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** If this question is related to freight rates, Mr. Speaker, any action which might be taken will come under the Canadian Transport Commission. As I have said repeatedly in this House, until they have taken any action, I am as ignorant as the hon. member, and I mean that in a kindly fashion.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, I would not abuse—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has asked his question. If he is rising on a point of order, I am prepared to recognize him on that basis.

**Mr. Nowlan:** I can only be kind because this minister needs kindness, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nowlan:** Apart from all his other needs, kindness is the one thing he needs right now. He was not in the House last Thursday when I directed my question to the Minister of Agriculture.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Question.

**Mr. Nowlan:** My question is coming, and your day is coming, too.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Nowlan:** After the Speaker called me to order—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member was recognized on a point of order. He should try to get to the point of order as soon as possible. A number of other hon. members are anxious to ask questions and we shall be running short of time.

• (2:50 p.m.)

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, for three days or two days I have sat in my seat. I have not contaminated the Chair with any of my questions. I do not intend to contaminate the chamber with any of my questions during this abortive session of Parliament, which I hope will end soon. But I am not going to sit in my seat and have the Minister of Transport, for whom I have the greatest fondness, suggest by subterfuge that I did not know what I asked about. Today, the minister did not know what I asked about.

**Mr. Speaker:** This seems to be a debate between the hon. member and the minister as to fact. I really think the point of order should not be pursued. There is not much to be gained by pursuing the point of order.

**Mr. Nowlan:** I agree. I am not pursuing the point of order. I am trying to ask a supplementary question.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** There are still four or five minutes left before the end of the question period. The hon. member might ask a supplementary question quickly, and then we will move on to subsequent questions.

**Mr. Nowlan:** I shall be very quick indeed if the hon. member for St. Boniface will shut up.

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

**Mr. Nowlan:** The only reason the hon. member for St. Boniface is concerned is that St. Boniface is no longer St. Boniface, it is part of Metro Winnipeg.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I hope the hon. member will be reasonable and ask his question. We do have to get on with the business of the question period.

**Mr. Nowlan:** I am always reasonable, Mr. Speaker. I always have respect for the Chair. I will put my question very briefly and succinctly to the Minister of Transport. Following my question of last Thursday, has the Minister of Agriculture yet referred to the Minister of Transport my question so that he may know what the hell he is answering?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Greenwood.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, that was a simple, short and succinct question. Surely, the minister can understand a very succinct and sensible question.

BRITISH COLUMBIA RAILWAY—POSSIBLE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR EXTENSION TO YUKON  
BOUNDARY

**Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, it is with some hesitancy that I address a question to the Minister of Transport who, I suspect, is not as ignorant as he says he is.

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

**Mr. Barnett:** I should like to ask the minister whether the government has under consideration a proposal to assist financially in the extension of the British Columbia Railway, formerly known as the Pacific Great Eastern, to the British Columbia-Yukon boundary, and, if so, whether he can tell us when it is likely that a government decision will be reached on this matter.

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** As I believe the hon. member knows, a detailed study was made by Hedlin Menzies on this subject and delivered to the Province of British Columbia as well as to the railway several months ago. Talks have been proceeding ever since that time, but I would expect that these talks would culminate in some form of tentative proposal early in the new year.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO SOVIET UNION TO  
PERMIT MEMBERS OF MINORITY GROUPS TO EMIGRATE

**Mr. Walter Deakon (High Park):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After listening to all this verbosity, I am glad to be recognized.