

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

government has yet reached the stage of appointing the new directors of the Canadian National Railways.

**Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, when these appointments are made they will be announced in the proper fashion.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question. Does the minister not think in view of the—

**Mr. Graffey:** Order. This is a statement.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Does the minister not think that in view of the assurances previously given it would be a courtesy to the house to make these appointments before the committee ceases to sit?

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Is the minister not going to answer that question?

**Mr. Graffey:** That was a statement; why should he?

**THE BUDGET**

## INQUIRY AS TO BASIS OF REVENUE ESTIMATES

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Would the minister say whether we are correct in assuming that in his budget speech of Tuesday evening he estimated revenues for the fiscal year 1961-62 on the basis of a 3 per cent rise in the gross national product?

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** No, Mr. Speaker. If the hon. member will examine carefully the statement I made he will find that I indicated that apart from the budget measures themselves we might expect, according to present indications, a 3 per cent rise this year in the gross national product. My estimate as to the anticipated revenues, expenditures and deficit is, of course, based upon the view that was taken as to the effect this year on revenues of the helpful measures to stimulate the economy which are proposed in the budget itself.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question. Would the minister indicate what percentage he did estimate—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I think the hon. member's questions would be more appropriately raised during the debate which is to follow. They relate to the subject matter of the debate and do not seem to me to qualify as having that special urgency required in order to be asked at this particular period.

[Mr. Chevrier.]

**Mr. Hellyer:** Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, the budget debate is a formal debate, so how is it possible for us to discuss the budget intelligently unless we know the rate of growth which the minister anticipates will result from the proposals he has indicated in his budget? I think, sir, it is imperative that the minister give us this information now, before we proceed with the debate.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member in this bland admission of his this morning, speaking for himself and I do not know how many others, indicates that he cannot discuss the budget intelligently, I hope I will not be held responsible for that.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Is the minister not going to give the house a reply to this question, which we deserve? It has always been customary to state the anticipated percentage of growth. Surely we are entitled to this information before we discuss the budget.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the words, which I could not hear, suited the actions I am sure they were more appropriate for the debate.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate):** I wonder whether I may put a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the character of the present government does the minister really believe that additional protection is needed for gutless chicken?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I do not think I should permit the supplementary from the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate when I have refused supplementaries to the Minister of Finance on the subject of his budget address.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that this question was altogether different from the preceding one. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate was asking a question regarding a specific proposal in the budget that had to do with "versivated" chicken. In case hon. gentlemen do not know the meaning of the word, it is a synonym for eviscerated. I would suggest to Your Honour that the question put forward by the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate is different, and the Minister of Finance should have no difficulty now that this long pause has taken place in giving an adequate reply.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the hon. member considers the matter one of urgency of course I would not set my judgment up against his.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Speaker, I did not hear your last comment.