

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS****REQUEST FOR REPORT ON DISCUSSIONS
WITH RAILWAY MANAGEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct to the Minister of Transport a question which I put to him last Friday when he was not in the chamber. I do not know whether it has been drawn to his attention, but in view of the statement made by the hon. member for Westmorland in Moncton last Thursday night that the minister was going to make a statement with regard to changes in the freight tariffs of the C.N.R., would the minister inform the house what announcement he has to make, and if he cannot make it today when can we expect it?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, at this moment I am still optimistic. I am not in a position to make a statement today but I am pressing on with this matter in the hope that I can make a statement within a very few days.

Mr. Lewis: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister inform the house whether this is a matter to be considered by him or his department, whether it is before the transport commission, or whether it is to be the subject matter of discussions between him and the railways?

Mr. Hellyer: I think that in cases such as this premature information is more likely to misinform than to inform. As soon as a decision has been taken I will be pleased to inform the house in the usual way.

Mr. Lewis: I have a further supplementary question. If that is the case, can the minister inform the house whether or not the hon. member for Westmorland, when she made the statement, expressed policy which the minister had authorized her to express?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure how a statement made outside the house by the parliamentary secretary is relevant and can form the basis of a question, but I will allow the question asked by the hon. member for York South.

Mr. Hellyer: All the reports from the meeting indicated that the hon. member for Westmorland acquitted herself ably and capably, as I had predicted she would. I was also pleased to hear the hon. member say such nice things about her and I think they are

[Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne).]

well justified. I can tell the hon. member that if her representations, which are persistent and meaningful, on behalf of the people of that area produce the results that I hope they will, my hon. friend will be pleased with the announcement when it is made.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question on the matter of lay-offs. Has a wire been received from the Canadian Railway Labour Executive Association referring to the job security agreements between the unions and railways, and is the minister prepared to see that the 90 days' notice clause therein is complied with in connection with the recent railway lay-offs?

Mr. Hellyer: I received a telegram and indicated that the government of course, would insist that the terms of the agreement between the union and management be fulfilled and suggested that the procedures which are set out in the agreement be undertaken if there are violations, as the unions allege. On their part the railways allege there are no violations. This is the extent of the information available at the moment.

[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS**STEPS TO AVOID POSSIBLE RAILWAY
STRIKE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Alcide Simard (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

Following the disappointment caused to the railway employees by a new offer by the railways, providing for an 8 per cent increase over a three-year period, is it the intention of the minister to take the necessary measures to prevent any possible strike?

[English]

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we always do everything we can and take those steps that are within our jurisdiction to prevent strikes, but it is not always possible to do so. However, whenever our good offices can be of service we try to make them available.

AIR TRANSPORT**TORONTO—REFUSAL OF LANDING RIGHTS
TO ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport