

Inquiries of the Ministry

CHANGE IN PERSONNEL OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. W. G. Weir (Portage-Neepawa) moved:

That the name of Mr. Fulton be substituted for that of Mr. Tustin on the special committee on railways and shipping owned, operated and controlled by the government.

Motion agreed to.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

REFERENCE OF ANNUAL REPORT, BUDGET AND CERTAIN ESTIMATES TO RAILWAYS AND SHIPPING COMMITTEE

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, by leave of the house I should like to move:

That the annual reports for 1949 of the Canadian National railway system, the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships Limited, the Canadian National Railways securities trust, the auditors' report to parliament in respect to the Canadian National railway system and the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships Limited, and the budget of the Canadian National Railways and Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships Limited for 1951, tabled this day, be referred to the sessional committee on railways and shipping owned, operated and controlled by the government, together with the following estimates for 1950-51:

Vote 493—Maritime Freight Rates Act, Canadian National Railways;

Vote 494—Maritime Freight Rates Act, railways other than Canadian National;

Vote 558—Prince Edward Island car ferry and terminals, deficit 1950;

Vote 559—Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships Limited, deficit 1950.

And that the resolution passed by the house on February 24, 1950, referring certain estimates to the committee of supply, be rescinded in so far as the said resolution relates to votes Nos. 493, 494, 558 and 559.

Motion agreed to.

AUDITOR GENERAL

REFERENCE TO MEMORANDUM PREPARED FOR SENATE COMMITTEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jean François Pouliot (Temiscouata):

As a private member of the House of Commons, Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I have been informed that a memorandum prepared by the Auditor General has been distributed to the members of the several committees of the Senate which are scrutinizing the estimates. I hope that the government will supply each member of the house with a copy of that memorandum. I suggest that it should be printed in legible type and with subtitles.

INCOME TAX

INQUIRY AS TO COLLECTION OF TAX ON CAPITAL GAINS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): I should like to ask the Minister of National Revenue

[Mr. Graydon.]

if the officers of his department, in collecting taxes on capital gains, are acting on the instructions of the department; and if so, whether any change in those instructions is contemplated by the government.

Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue): The officers of the Department of National Revenue are not collecting taxes on capital gains.

PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE

QUESTION AS TO AMENDMENTS TO INCREASE AMOUNTS PAYABLE, ETC.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture, arising out of a speech which he delivered in Saskatoon within the last week. It has to do with the Prairie Farm Assistance Act. Having regard to the fact that the drought area in the western provinces was worse last year than ever before, has the government in contemplation amendments to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act in order to provide for an increase in the amount payable, the alteration of the qualifying boundaries, or, generally, amendments to remove certain anomalies that have been found in the operation of the act; and if such amendments are made, will they apply to the 1949 failure?

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): The gathering which I attended in Saskatoon was, as my hon. friend knows, the meeting of the municipal association of the province of Saskatchewan, with representatives from Manitoba and Alberta also in attendance. A number of their resolutions had to do with possible amendments to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act. I told them that at this session I would be introducing an amendment to the effect that the area reduced by the amendment of last year, from nine sections to six sections, both of which were to be rectangular, would not need to be rectangular. That applies on the taking in and putting out of areas.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That will be very helpful.

Mr. Gardiner: That provision will be introduced. So far as I recall, that was the only proposed amendment I discussed with them. There were, of course, suggestions made that there should be other amendments. I was asked the direct question whether we were going the change the amounts. I did not give any encouragement in answering that question. As a matter of fact, so far as I can remember at the moment, I said there would be no change in payments.