

studies to the effect that it should protect its employees' health by paying 50 per cent of the direct premium for medicare.

I hope also that the government will pursue the same course and consider the problem of the retired employees, as suggested by my hon. colleague from Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles).

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I should like to announce that there has been a discussion among the representatives of the parties with respect to the special order for the debate which we will have under way today and Monday. It is proposed that, for the purpose of debate on government order No. 32, Standing Order 31(1) shall be suspended and that the following time limits shall apply to debate on the item: no member shall speak for more than 20 minutes in the said debate, except that the first spokesman for each of the parties may speak for not more than 40 minutes.

This is not part of the order, but by way of exhortation I should also like to point out that I think it was agreed that nobody—and this means nobody—would seek an extension of those time limits. Perhaps the House would agree not to give any extension so that the maximum number of members might participate in this limited debate.

I have decided, even though the motion is in my name, to defer giving the House my views on the matter and I give way to the Minister of Finance to move the motion on my behalf.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of asking for a correction in *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I thought the hon. member was rising for the purpose of participating in discussion of the proposed motion of the President of the Privy Council. I should first ascertain whether the proposed order is agreed to by the House. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

● (11:20 a.m.)

DOMINION COAL BOARD DISSOLUTION ACT

MEASURE TO DISSOLVE

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved for leave to

21545—16½

Inquiries of the Ministry

introduce Bill C-161, to provide for the dissolution of the Dominion Coal Board and for the repeal of the Canadian Coal Equality Act, the Coal Production Assistance Act and the Dominion Coal Board Act.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the minister shall have leave to introduce the said bill?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

TRADE

POTASH—POSSIBLE U.S. IMPORT PENALTY—FREIGHT RATE INCREASE—EXPORT BOARD

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In light of the very real fears of the potash industry in Saskatchewan and the people of that province that the United States may impose a mandatory penalty against the import of Canadian potash which would cost the Canadian industry millions of dollars and, in effect, the province, can the minister tell us whether he has undertaken any talks with United States authorities in order to deal with this threat?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): There have been talks before, Mr. Speaker. The regulations announced by the Premier of Saskatchewan last week are being studied now by different departments of the government, the Department of Justice, my department and others. They are being studied by the government and a commentary will be made when that study is completed.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, in light of the recent announcement by Canadian National Railways of its plan to raise rates on the shipment of potash by 6 per cent, will the Prime Minister tell the House whether it is the intention of the government to indicate to this Crown corporation the government's desire that it exercise restraint in increasing its rates in view of the threat of inflation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will discuss that with the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker.