

Oral Questions

recipient of a regional office; there will be other regional offices established in Ontario and there will be a very special office established in northern Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister replied very quickly before the Chair had an opportunity to intervene. A question such as the one asked by the hon. member should normally be placed on the order paper or considered at the time of adjournment. I suggest every hon. member would want to inquire whether his constituency will be the beneficiary of one of the regional offices to be announced by the minister.

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POST OFFICE

ALLEGED CHANGE IN POLICY ON DIRECTORY SERVICE

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. Has the Post Office Department introduced a new policy of returning mail, undelivered by reason of change of address, to the sender rather than providing directory service as has been the practice in the past?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry but I did not get the question of the hon. member—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I suggest that in any event the question should be placed on the order paper as I fail to see the urgency of the matter.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have been endeavouring to ask this question now for three days. I suggest it is urgent because delivery of mail by the Post Office Department is one of the most important services government can provide. My information is that the Postmaster General has introduced a policy of returning mail to the sender, undelivered by reason of a change of address, rather than providing directory service as has been the case in the past in the interest of efficient mail delivery.

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CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

TORONTO—INCREASED VOLUME OF FREIGHT TRAFFIC—
GOVERNMENT ACTION TO LIMIT

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Due to increased CPR traffic and the continuous increase in the speed of freight trains in and out of metropolitan Toronto, causing great discomfort to a large number of citizens, is the minister prepared to seriously consider a thorough investigation into this matter, or to devise to decrease the unacceptable noise level?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this matter is already under investigation by the

[Mr. Jamieson.]

CTC and the government of Ontario. We hope to find a solution to all these problems.

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ENERGY

PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—ADVICE TO
UNITED STATES OF CANADIAN INTEREST AS
ALTERNATIVE TO ALASKA TANKER ROUTE

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of allegations today by a United States senator that the U.S. State Department misled the U.S. Senate by stating that Canada has shown "no strong, current interest" in the Mackenzie pipeline alternative to the Alaska tanker route, can the Prime Minister assure the House that the U.S. State Department was recently advised by the government that it has, indeed, a strong, current interest in the Mackenzie route?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is the position of the government. As to the word "recently", I would have to confer with the minister to see how recent that was.

● (1530)

Mr. Fraser: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the senator's further charge that the United States ambassador to Canada has had private conversations with the government, indicating Canadian approval of the Mackenzie route as an alternative to the tanker route, can the Prime Minister advise the House if there were such conversations and, if so, with whom and how recently?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I will take note of the question and inquire.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East and then call orders of the day.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, at the risk of breaking up the beautiful romance I will let my question go to another day.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS AND AIR
CANADAFAILURE TO REFER ANNUAL STATEMENTS TO STANDING
COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR—POSSIBLE USE
OF AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In light of the fact that the annual reports of Air Canada and the CNR have not been audited according to law and because of this, according to the Minister of Finance, cannot be referred to the appropriate standing committee, could I ask the Minister of Finance if he is discussing the matter or consulting with the government House leader concerning ways and means of bringing forward Bill