

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

the sea we have carried on exploratory talks with a number of countries concerning the possibility of working out a broad agreement on a number of questions left unsettled by the two conferences. As yet I am not able to report any definite conclusions as a result of the conversations.

has more recently acquired the Vancouver-Nanaimo service of Blackball Ferries. I would think that any question of extending the Canadian Pacific services to be cancelled would be a matter to be taken up directly with the provincial government.

[Later:]

**INDUSTRY**

CANADIAN OIL COMPANY—SUGGESTED POST-PONEMENT OF TAKEOVER

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the indication in the throne speech that legislation will be introduced to establish a national economic development board whose duties would include reporting upon economic policies and recommending projects which may require direct governmental participation, will the Prime Minister consider asking the directors of Canadian Oil Company to defer final acceptance of Shell Oil Company's takeover bid until this important matter could be examined by the proposed national economic development board to see whether it is in the best interests of Canada?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. In respect to that question, I have some difficulty in seeing in what way a matter of policy should be announced, and how this particular question would not be the responsibility of the ministry.

**TRANSPORT**

NANAIMO-VANCOUVER—REQUEST THAT STEAMSHIP SERVICE BE CONTINUED

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Transport. Will the minister join all of Vancouver island north of the Malahat in urging the C.P.R. not to withdraw on October 1 its passenger steamship service between Nanaimo and Vancouver, at least until some suitable alternative method of transportation has been provided?

**Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, this situation was brought to my notice earlier, with the request that the federal government intervene to preserve the service. On looking into the matter then it was my conclusion that there were no grounds for federal intervention. The facts seem to be that the Canadian Pacific action has been occasioned, at least in part, by the very active competition of the provincially operated ferry system. Within the last few years the province has organized a very efficient ferry service connecting Vancouver and Victoria, and

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Transport, supplementary to the question I asked a little earlier about the C.P.R. steamship services in British Columbia. In view of his statement that the government of Canada has no jurisdiction over the continued operation of such services, will he consider introducing an amendment to the Transport Act to bring coastal steamer services under the jurisdiction of the board of transport commissioners?

**Mr. Balcer:** Mr. Speaker, I will give consideration to the hon. member's suggestion.

NEWFOUNDLAND—REPORTED ANNOUNCEMENT OF REDUCTION IN SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. C. W. Carter (Burin-Burgeo):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Transport, and I apologize for not giving him notice. Is the minister aware that Canadian National Railways have announced their intention of reducing the cross-province service to three trains per week, which would bring us back to what we had about 50 years ago? Has the minister received representations from the chamber of commerce and other interested parties about this matter?

**Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport):** I will take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

(Translation):

RICHELIEU WATERWAY—CANADIAN MEMBERS OF COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Lucien Cardin (Richelieu-Vercheres):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister in a position to reveal the names of the three Canadian representatives who will sit on the joint international commission to consider the deepening of the Richelieu river? That commission is supposed to meet in early October.

**Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, as soon as I am in a position to reveal those names, I shall be pleased to impart that information to the house.