

Inquiries of the Ministry

Could the minister tell us whether it is the C.N.R. policy to supply some private trucking businesses with its own trailers for highway transportation, as was the case recently, which is quite unfair?

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: This is a question for the order paper.

TRANSPORT**SUGGESTED SHIPPING OF GRAIN TO RUSSIA
DIRECTLY FROM LAKEHEAD**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport a question with reference to an understanding I have that he is meeting today with a delegation from the U.S.S.R. regarding the transportation of grain to Russia. I should like to ask him whether he or his officials have under consideration any proposals that would lead to ocean-going vessels, Russian or chartered, going directly to the lakehead for the rest of the shipping season in order to carry grain and relieve the congestion on the rails and amongst lake traffic.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker, no such program is under consideration at the moment. I do not agree with the latter part of the hon. member's assertion that it would in any way increase the total amount of shipments.

**WESTERN ONTARIO—PROTEST AGAINST FURTHER
REDUCTION IN RAIL SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Because of the implications and the importance to the economy of western Ontario, will the minister assure the house that there will be no further curtailment of rail service in that area?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I could hardly give the assurance in that form, but I will immediately look into the whole matter and find out from the railways and the board of transport commissioners what the situation is. I am aware of the concern this matter raises throughout many of the municipalities in western Ontario, and I will give the matter very close attention.

INQUIRIES OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a light question to the Minister of Justice.

[Mr. Laprise.]

Could he tell us if the fact, for a Liberal member, of attending a Social Credit dinner without an official invitation is considered an offence which should be referred to the R.C.M.P.?

Mr. Lambert: This is ridiculous.

[Text]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): I have a question to direct to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Does the Minister of Trade and Commerce have before him consideration of the possibility of exchanging Canadian wheat directly for Cuban sugar instead of letting the Russians do it?

Some hon. Members: Order paper.

REDISTRIBUTION**INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
THIS SESSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. In the light of the statement in the speech from the throne that redistribution of electoral districts is overdue and this house will be asked to authorize the establishment of a commission to undertake this important task, will the Secretary of State tell the house what steps are being taken to implement this undertaking so the proposed redistribution might be implemented before the next general election?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): I welcome this particular question because I had hoped, and I still hope, before the end of this week to initiate discussions with hon. gentlemen on the other side of the house with a view to ascertaining the best way of proceeding with this legislation. I feel we all have a duty to co-operate in this matter because it is the constitutional obligation of parliament to get through with it at this session.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF PROBLEMS OF
THE AGED**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the facts about conditions under which a great many old people in Canada live which are being brought out by a committee of the other place, can the minister say whether the government will