

Inquiries of the Ministry

threat that the United States intended to impose very high tariffs against the importation into the United States of the metals to which the hon. member has referred. That expected action did not culminate in any way in legislative approval by congress.

Until the matter has been considered further by congress and there is any indication that action will be taken by the United States, there is little more that can be done at this time. The whole question of these two metals was discussed on a number of occasions with representatives of the United States, and when anything of a definite nature is available it will be brought to the attention of the house immediately.

[Later:]

Mr. Byrne: May I ask a supplementary question respecting base metal prices? The miners' union made their request based on the present prices of metals—

Some hon. Members: Question, question.

Mr. Byrne:—and is the Prime Minister considering stockpiling and putting a floor price under base metals in Canada?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, that again is a question of government policy to be made known in due course.

PENSIONS**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—INQUIRY AS TO INCREASE FOR RETIRED EMPLOYEES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Henry Murphy (Westmorland): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Has the government given consideration to increasing the pensions of retired employees of the Canadian National Railways?

Mr. Diefenbaker: You forgot about that for a little while.

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Matters of that kind are always of great interest to this government—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Hees:—and whenever the government has any information regarding the matter to give to the house it will be done in the proper form and in the proper manner.

[Later:]

REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN PENSIONS OF SUPER-ANNUATED FEDERAL CIVIL SERVANTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Daniel McIvor (Fort William): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Will he give any consideration this

year to increasing the pensions of retired civil servants, inasmuch as he supported my resolution last year?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, that matter is under consideration and has been for a long time. I think my hon. friend is aware that other pension increases are indicated in the speech from the throne.

Mr. McIvor: Thank you.

[Later:]

INQUIRY AS TO EFFECTIVE DATE OF FORECAST INCREASES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can he tell the house what is to be the effective date of the old age and other pension increases forecast in the speech from the throne?

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, that matter naturally will be considered at the time the bill is being presented to the house, which we trust, of course, will be soon.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I ask a supplementary question. In view of the fact that the provision for \$46 a month runs out at the end of this month unless further interim supply is provided, can the minister say whether the new rate will be effective November 1?

Mr. Monteith: Mr. Speaker, I think my previous answer covered the situation.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Oh no.

SHIPPING**COASTAL TRADE—INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): May I ask the Prime Minister a question. Can he tell us when the report of the royal commission on coastal shipping will be handed down?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I cannot right off-hand. I will make inquiries and at the next sitting of the house I will give an answer to my hon. friend.