

Inquiries of the Ministry

certainly this is the year when to the greatest extent possible parliament and its operations should be made available to the Canadian people.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to bring this matter to the attention of the C.B.C. I myself did not know that a program of this kind had been cancelled. I did receive a letter from the president of the C.B.C., I think yesterday or the day before, referring to statements that had been made in the house on Wednesday and offering the co-operation of the C.B.C. in every way possible so as to televise the proceedings of parliament.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, this plan was not for televising parliament in general but for an historical story of parliament with the television cameras in parliament so the Canadian people, and particularly the school children, would have a better knowledge of this institution.

Mr. Pearson: I would be very glad to follow up that matter at once.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

REQUEST FOR EARLY CONSIDERATION OF BILL TO ABOLISH THE SENATE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. I wonder whether the government would consider expediting the consideration by this house of my bill to abolish the Senate, so we can get the bill to the other house and find out how many senators agree with Senator McCutcheon's views about that institution.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): My hon. friend should not be so pessimistic about his chances of becoming a senator.

Mr. Knowles: I want to get the Senate abolished so that all our chances will disappear.

GRAIN

MAINTENANCE OF ATLANTIC PORTS SHARE OF EXPORT BUSINESS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the minister's intimation in the house the other day that the National Harbours Board may dispose of its

grain elevators in the maritimes as well as in Quebec, will the minister alleviate fears in the maritimes by stating that maritime ports, regardless of the ownership of the grain elevators, will get their fair share of the grain export business, particularly in the winter season?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman's question, as is sometimes the case with his questions, is a bit complicated, but I think if I dealt with the first part it might allay any fears. As far as I know—and I think I would know but I will ascertain whether I am right—there are no negotiations for any change in the ownership of any government facilities either at Saint John, New Brunswick, or at Halifax.

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Even at that, Mr. Speaker, would the minister assure the maritime ports, now that they may be in competition with privately owned grain elevators in Quebec, that they will get their share of the business?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, the government does not actually control the movement of the wheat, but anything I can reasonably do to see that Saint John and Halifax get even a little more than their share of the business I would have a certain sympathy with.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

REPORTED INTENTION TO REDUCE TRANS-CONTINENTAL PASSENGER SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might answer a question asked by the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre based on a rumour which I am happy to say turns out to have been ill founded. Canadian National Railways has no intention whatever of reducing its transcontinental passenger service during centennial year; indeed, they are making every effort to carry as many passengers as possible because of the immense amount of traffic being offered.

[Translation]

INCOME TAX

QUEBEC—EXEMPTION FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue.