

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, like the hon. member I have taken note of the remarks of the chairman of the National Energy Board, and will consider them.

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION**REQUEST FOR NATIVE INDIAN REPRESENTATION AT CONFERENCES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Will the government grant the request of the National Indian Brotherhood to allow the Indian people a formal role in conferences concerned with amendments to the Canadian constitution?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I do not know of the request, Mr. Speaker, but if the hon. member is referring to the constitutional conference to be held two weeks from now, there is no question of anyone but representatives of the federal and provincial governments sitting there as delegates.

Mr. Simpson: A supplementary question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister says he knows nothing of this request. I understand the request may be forthcoming to him today. I am asking whether he will give it his fullest consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether it is in order to ask a minister whether he will give consideration to submissions which will be made to him at a future date or a future hour. I have some doubts about that.

Mr. Simpson: I have a supplementary question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, but in his absence I should like to direct it to his parliamentary secretary. Will the government recognize the National Indian Brotherhood as the official Indian advisory body to the department of Indian affairs; and if so, can he assure the house that the National Indian Brotherhood will not be bypassed as previous so-called advisory groups have been bypassed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question asked by the hon. member contains allegations, and as such cannot be accepted.

[Mr. Speaker.]

INDIAN AFFAIRS**COMPETITION FOR POSITION AS ADVISER ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, but since I do not see him here perhaps the question could be taken as notice. Has the Indian affairs branch recently advertised a competition for a position at the P.M. 6 level with a salary of \$18,000 a year, to consult with the Indian and Eskimo people on policies and programs affecting them? This competition, as I understand it, is not open to qualified native applicants.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member the question should be placed on the order paper. If there is urgency for a discussion of the matter it could be raised at the time of adjournment at ten o'clock.

Mr. Rose: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**EFFECT OF INCREASED RATES ON UNION PUBLICATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): My question is for the Postmaster General. Have new representations been made to him about the adverse effects of the increase in postal rates on union publications such as newspapers and magazines? If so, would the minister give consideration to moderating the proposed new rates?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I have not met with any groups in the last two weeks because no groups have asked to meet with me. I expect the regulations, in conformity with the act adopted by the house, will be put into effect on December 24.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**PROPOSED LAY-OFF OF SECURITY STAFF, ATLANTIC REGION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the hon. gentleman in a position today to bring the house up to date regarding his discussions with Canadian National Railways concerning the cut-backs