

Works consider making a statement in the House concerning the state of navigation on the Mackenzie River, the difficulties experienced by the Northern Transportation Company in moving the ever-increasing volume of freight, and the fact that moneys are being denied for the necessary dredging to clear the river?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member probably knows, we have been pre-occupied with this problem recently. I would not mind making a statement on it. We intend to do major dredging of the river. We have a difficult situation there because of the filling of the dam on the Peace River. In addition, we have had the misfortune of a year when precipitation has been low. The result is that the water in the Mackenzie River is—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that this statement should be made on motions.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

PATROLLING OF ARCTIC WATERS

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence whether the Canadian government is having regular patrols made of Canadian Arctic waters and, if not, why not?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, that is a very difficult question. We do not make a regular patrol, but to demonstrate why not would involve making a long speech.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed, from Thursday, October 23, consideration of the motion of Mr. Jack Cullen for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I think I can speak on behalf of all members of the opposition when I say it is pleasant to be back on Parliament hill and once again become somebody, having been dismissed as nobody when we were last here.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Trudeau: You may not manage.

The Address—Mr. Stanfield

Mr. Stanfield: I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Sarnia (Mr. Cullen) upon his address to the House yesterday.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Stanfield: If I may presume to say so, he spoke well and effectively, so effectively indeed that when he was speaking about things the government ought to consider very seriously he seemed to drive the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) from the House. Perhaps that was purely coincidental.

[Translation]

I wish to congratulate the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Marceau) most sincerely on the way he has put forward his point of view.

Some of his ideas on the course that this administration should follow deserve serious consideration. Although far from supporting all he has said, I still realize, as he does, that he represents, for his party and for his constituency, an asset of which they can justly be proud.

[English]

I should like to congratulate the two new Ministers without Portfolio, both from Ontario, who have been appointed by the government and also the two new parliamentary secretaries. I wish them every success. I think it is sufficient to say that in all cases the promotions were well-deserved. However, I must point out again that there are as yet no parliamentary secretaries from New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta.

The country expected, or was led to expect a more extensive shuffle in the cabinet than actually took place—at least judging from newspaper stories which appeared to be rather inspired at the time. They predicted something more drastic. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) apparently could not bring himself to do this. May I just say to those who lost out this time, speaking from long experience both in the opposition and government, everybody cannot win all the time.

I must also extend a rather rueful congratulation to the government for having discovered the National Parole Board. The Parole Board has for some ten years or more escaped being touched by political patronage. Suddenly somebody, apparently of the East Block entourage, decided that the Parole Board would be just the place to put a couple of retired Liberal warhorses at \$23,000 per annum each.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.