Inquiries of the Ministry

[*English*]

FREIGHT RATES

MARITIME PROVINCES—REQUEST FOR DELAY IN PROPOSED INCREASES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Charles H. Thomas (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of Transport who, according to my revised roster, was supposed to be here today. I do not know where he is, but in his absence I will repeat my question of November 21 to the Minister without Portfolio, who at that time said he would take it as notice.

I wonder whether the minister could now give me an answer to the question of what will be done to forestall expiration of the freeze on Atlantic freight rates in March 1969? Does the minister have an answer to that question?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister without Portfolio): No, Mr. Speaker, but I will relay that inquiry to the Minister of Transport.

Mr. Thomas (Moncton): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the minister catches this elusive minister would he also—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member has a supplementary question he should ask it.

Mr. Thomas (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question for the Minister without Portfolio is this. At the same time would he try to get an answer to my question of October 31 regarding what is being done to forestall the planned lay-off of Canadian National security police in the Atlantic region?

Mr. Richardson: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

HIGHWAY SAFETY

INQUIRY AS TO SAFETY STANDARDS FOR TIRES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I have a question on transport that I should like to direct to the attention of the associate minister or the Minister without Portfolio. Having in mind news reports concerning tires that were given safety tests in the United States and that failed such tests, and in view of the fact that some of these tires are imported into Canada, I should like to ask what is the situation in this country. Do we have a testing bureau for tire safety, and are tires that have been proven faulty called back?

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that this question should be placed on the order paper.

Mr. Mather: Ten o'clock.

[*Translation*]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

QUEBEC—COVERAGE GIVEN TO POLITICAL PARTIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State.

Recently I asked him if the report he had promised to table about the use and allocation of time granted by the C.B.C. to political and non political movements and others was ready and he replied that he did not know what I was talking about. Now that he does, I would like to ask him if he still intends to promise such a study of the C.B.C.'s policy in that particular field, before the representatives of the C.B.C. give evidence before the parliamentary committee on broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts, as announced?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, on the contrary, I think the hon. member is pretending to know that I know, but apparently he does not know that I do not know, because I tried to find in *Hansard* —and, in that respect, I had some help—a sentence of mine that could have led him to believe that a report would be tabled in the house on that matter, and I have not found anything to that effect.

On the other hand, when the matter was raised I remember having told the hon. member that the facts that gave rise to his question were not clear, that it could not be answered until he had explained those facts, and I find that he did so during the debate on the adjournment motion but, at that time, unfortunately, I was away from the house and Canada. The C.B.C. prefers to give evidence before the committee on broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts, because it is a complex question and the C.B.C. would like to be able to explain and discuss it with hon. members who sit on the committee.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the Secretary of State knows that you do not know that he does not know, but we get nowhere with questions like that.

I should like to ask my question again, since he does not give me any answer, and