

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Minister a question based upon what I hope is a wildly speculative story in *Le Devoir* of yesterday. Has the Prime Minister received representations from the Minister of Justice regarding the removal of Donald Gordon from Canadian National Railways because of his attitude toward French Canadians working on the railway? If he has, I wonder if he could tell us whether any consideration is being given to renewing Mr. Gordon's relationship with Canadian National Railways in September, when I understand it terminates?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman's question is not only out of order but is wildly speculative.

**Mr. Fisher:** Mr. Speaker, I think the question is not out of order. I would like to put it to the Prime Minister for this reason. There has been considerable discussion in public about this matter, and I think it is fair to ask that the rumours be denied.

**Mr. Pearson:** Surely, Mr. Speaker, it is out of order to ask a question about conversations between two members of the cabinet.

**Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe):** A supplementary question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker.

*(Translation):*

In view of the fact that the contract of the Canadian National's president has to be renewed during the recess, could the Prime Minister tell us now whether steps or discussions have been undertaken for the renewal of Mr. Gordon's contract or for the appointment of another person as president of the Canadian National Railways?

*(Text):*

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, a decision will be taken on this matter and an announcement made in the house in due course. At that time the information will be given.

**WORLD FAIR****REQUEST FOR ESTIMATE OF COST OF SITE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. In view of an editorial in this week's *Financial Post* stating that preparation of the world's fair site in Montreal would cost between \$500 million and \$700 million, would the minister inform the house whether this is a correct estimate? If so, would he give consideration to some other site less expensive to the Canadian taxpayers?

**Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur):** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, a number of

[Mr. Fisher.]

hon. members, including myself, have questions on the order paper relating to this very matter, and I feel that one of my questions on the order paper is on all fours with the inference which the hon. member has raised. I would like to point out that if the government, through its minister, can answer an oral question, when it has for several weeks passed over a specific question on the order paper, then it seems to present an unfairness to the order paper questions.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the hon. member's remarks are well taken, but it is impossible to rule on a question until I hear it. Consequently I only have partial control until I hear the question.

**MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS****INQUIRY AS TO ASSISTANCE TO GOLD PRODUCERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Temisca-mingue):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. Can he say whether the government is considering any measures to extend or increase the assistance to Canadian gold producers?

**Hon. W. M. Benidickson (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys):** Mr. Speaker, the former minister is well aware that there are another five months to go during which this type of assistance will be paid, and I can assure him that during our recess the matter will be considered.

**AIR TRANSPORT****ASSISTANCE TO PASSENGERS STRANDED IN ENGLAND**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Fred F. Stenson (Peterborough):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Would his department consider arranging to bring back to Canada those 86 people who are stranded in England through the failure of a commercial air line to live up to its commitments? There are also 37 Britons stranded here in Canada.

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I am familiar with this situation and I do not think it is proper to say that the air line was not living up to its commitment. The air line took the precaution to have its senior representative fly to Toronto, when these people were going overseas, to hand them individually their one way tickets for the express purpose of having the opportunity to advise and warn each of them that they did not have return tickets, and that the air line would not return them to Canada unless it were paid the fare. That having been done, I do not know there is