

Inquiries of the Ministry

would cross to this side of the house we would be glad to give him that responsibility.

POWER

**COLUMBIA RIVER—CONSULTATIONS WITH
INTERESTED PARTIES BEFORE
RENEGOTIATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the very voluminous correspondence of the right hon. gentleman, when he was official leader of the opposition, with various British Columbia organizations, local authorities, and many other persons, stating his belief in the need for renegotiation of the Columbia river treaty, can the right hon. gentleman assure the house that all British Columbia interests, particularly those of the Arrow lakes water resources committee, will be consulted by the government before a final decision concerning the terms of the treaty is reached, as he indicated in his correspondence with these various people?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, before adjustments, modifications or clarifications are made to this treaty, all aspects of the matter will be considered, and we will be glad to hear representations from all those concerned on any aspect.

TRANSPORT

**WINNIPEG-SASKATOON—PROPOSED DIS-
CONTINUANCE OF TRAIN SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last I directed a question to the Prime Minister in connection with the proposed discontinuance of trains Nos. 9 and 10, at which time he committed himself to look into the question that afternoon. I wonder if the Prime Minister is in a position to give me an answer to that question.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this question should more properly have been addressed, of course, to the Minister of Transport, but as I did take notice of the question last Friday perhaps I may be permitted to reply to it.

In answer to the question with respect to the discontinuance of trains Nos. 9 and 10 from Winnipeg to Saskatoon, representations were received, I am informed, and forthwith referred to the board of transport commissioners who have jurisdiction in this matter. The application for discontinuance by the railway had been heard in Drumheller on November 19 and 20, 1962 after due notice

[Mr. Pearson.]

of time and place. All representations and all relevant evidence were duly covered. The board, in a judgment which runs to 47 pages, found that the sum total of inconvenience which might result to people using trains Nos. 9 and 10 did not justify requiring the railway company to sustain a continuing loss of \$264,000 per annum and to forgo an estimated annual net financial betterment of \$202,000. I am informed by the board that representations received since the date of the judgment gave no reasonable grounds to change the decision.

Mr. Korchinski: A supplementary question in connection with that reply. I wonder whether the Prime Minister would now take this question under advisement and consider reversing the decision of the board.

Mr. J. H. Horner (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Has the railroad considered giving the people in that area from Winnipeg to Calgary another type of service, such as a day liner service in place of trains Nos. 9 and 10?

Mr. Pearson: I am sure all aspects of the matter were taken into consideration. In answer to the other supplementary question, I believe there is a right of appeal from a decision of this kind.

**RAILWAY BRANCH LINES—REQUEST FOR
EXTENSION OF NOTICE PERIOD**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the serious dislocation of business and community life caused by the present railway policy of branch line abandonment, is the government giving consideration to extending the notice period prior to abandonment to allow for the necessary adjustment within the communities concerned?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the question asked by the hon. member is a rather important one. The government is considering this whole policy in a rather thorough way at the moment and any announcement to be made will be made after consideration.

UNITED NATIONS

**REPORTED BRITISH PROPOSAL RESPECTING SPREAD
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the attention of the secretary of