Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister of National Defence. Is he aware of recent statements that there is a great difference emerging between the United States and Canadian defence departments interpretation of NORAD and its relationship to the A.B.M. system? In view of this will the minister undertake to make a statement to the house tomorrow?

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): With respect, Mr. Speaker, I do not think this question is very clear. The situation now is that the United States government has decided to proceed with what is called the sentinel system, in which some A.B.M.'s would be installed on American soil. Our interest concerns how the sentinel system is correlated with the further development of North American air defence. We are keeping informed of the technological developments taking place, because we know that as a country Canada could eventually get involved in the North American defence system.

Mr. Schreyer: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, if the minister would like clarification of my question I would be happy to oblige and rephrase it.

HARBOURS

ROBERTS BANK-FEDERAL REPRESENTATION AT CONFERENCE ON RAIL LINK

On the orders of the day:

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport I would like to ask a question of the Prime Minister.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Same answer.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): In view of Premier Bennett's statement that he will be glad to hear from all interested parties at the hearing tomorrow to discuss the Roberts Bank missing rail link, will the federal government be represented at this meeting?

Mr. Trudeau: I can only give the same answer. The Minister of Transport is not here according to the roster today.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In [Mr. Cadieux (Labelle).]

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I name is not on the roster, was he given spewish to direct a related question to the cial permission to be here for today's question period?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker-

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt if the question is in order.

COMMUNICATIONS

REQUEST FOR POLICY STATEMENT ON CONCENTRATION OF OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State. In the light of the C.R.T.C. decision concerning radio station CHSJ at Saint John, New Brunswick, is it the policy of the government to break up concentration of ownership and control over communications media serving specific communities in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that he is now asking for a general policy statement which should be made on motions rather than by way of answer to a question at this time.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might rephrase my question to bring it into line with your ruling. If the government has plans to break up monopolies in mass communications media in Canada in specific communities, would the responsible minister make such a statement in the house outlining the guide lines that have been established, and make these available to the house and to the general public of Canada?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): The question is under consideration, Mr. Speaker. As soon as the policy has been defined concerning the instructions to be given to the C.R.T.C. in that connection, I will be happy to make a statement in the house, as requested by the member.

[English]

HEALTH AND WELFARE

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION RESPECTING SNIFFING OF AEROPLANE GLUE, ETC.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Solicitor General. It is in connection with a view of the fact that the Postmaster General's question I asked him on October 15 regarding