

Inquiries of the Ministry

My question of privilege is this. I wanted to rise on a point of order following a question which I had asked in order that I might explain why it was in order. You prevented me from doing so. It seems to me that I have the right to raise a point of order when the occasion arises. I ask for your ruling on the matter.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Fisher: I can't compete with that.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Lapointe will understand that I am a human being, too, and sometimes it is difficult for me to make my voice heard; but I am sure he heard me when I said three times that his question was out of order. It was as simple as that; the question was out of order. The hon. member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, an hon. member of parliament is asking a question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member for Villeneuve must recognize that I am still the Speaker. I will be glad indeed to give the hon. member my reasons for not hearing him at this time. They are very simple. The hon. member for Port Arthur had precedence; he rose before the hon. member for Lapointe. All hon. members have equal rights in this chamber, including the hon. member for Port Arthur, and he rose first. The hon. member's question of privilege or point of order may come in later, but not at this time.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

REPORTED STATEMENT BY MEMBER FOR
DRUMMOND-ARTHABASKA

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Is the Prime Minister in a position to confirm the statement made by the hon. member for Drummond-Arthabaska last Sunday, in Drummondville, to the effect that the province of Quebec would get everything she asked for at the federal-provincial conference, and that the amount of \$42 million already granted to her by the federal government was but a first instalment on what she would receive under the new distribution of fiscal rights?

[Text]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm that statement, which I have not seen, if in fact the statement was made.

[Mr. Gregoire.]

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

HAINES ROAD—NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING
MAINTENANCE DURING WINTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Can he inform the house whether the negotiations between the Canadian government and the United States government have yet been completed with regard to the maintenance of the Haines highway?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think the arrangements are completed, but I would prefer to read the hon. member's question, as well as hear it, and I might make an announcement tomorrow.

Mr. Nielsen: While the minister is announcing that, I wonder if he will inform the house whether negotiations have been completed as to the salient features of maintenance, particularly the equipment that is being used and the labour being utilized on the highway?

Mr. Laing: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

TRANSPORT

RAILWAY BRANCH LINES—CONFERENCE
RESPECTING ABANDONMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. O. Cooper (Rosetown-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Sometime ago I asked if there would be a meeting of all interested parties before any further railway abandonment would take place. Does the minister anticipate calling this meeting, or is the document I have in my hand a final disposition of this matter?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what document the hon. member has in his hand, but I would indicate to him that it has been made clear on several occasions that the abandonment of grain lines in western Canada will not be proceeded with for the time being, and I have also indicated that I propose bringing forward legislation to deal with this subject.

Mr. Cooper: The document I have is headed "Rail line abandonments by C.N.R. and C.P.R. as of November 6, 1963."

HEALTH AND WELFARE

FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION TO COST OF ANTI-
SMOKING CAMPAIGN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Min-