

basis for dealing with marketing problems in the Quebec maple products industry, rather than putting those products under price supports under the Agricultural Stabilization Act.

### CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

#### REPORTED INTENTION OF FIREMEN TO STRIKE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gerard Loiselle (St. Ann):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Transport whether he is aware of the press report this morning that if the Canadian National Railways firemen intend to strike? If so, has he any comment to make on it?

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** I saw the report, Mr. Speaker, and I have no comment to make on it.

#### TORONTO—REPORTED ESTABLISHMENT OF FREIGHT MARSHALLING YARD

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. C. A. Cathers (York North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. The Toronto press of March 12 carried stories of Canadian National plans for the creation of a large freight marshalling yard and new railway lines required to give access to this yard. Is the minister in a position to make a statement with regard to these proposals, and can he advise the house respecting the improvement in commuter services which can be made when these facilities have been completed?

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** I wish to thank the hon. member for advising me of his intention to ask this question. For some time now the Canadian National Railways has been studying its freight handling facilities serving metropolitan Toronto, and has included in its 1959 capital budget an item covering the acquisition of land required for the construction of a large marshalling yard in the township of Vaughan, together with necessary connecting trackage. Parliament in due course will be asked to pass enabling legislation.

With regard to commuter service, when the new yard and access lines have been built the present congestion in the approaches to the terminal area will be lessened, which should make physically possible additional commuter operations. The management of the railway has already initiated preliminary studies in anticipation of an approach on behalf of the Toronto area commuters, and is prepared to discuss with the authorities concerned the question of increasing its commuter operations in the greater Toronto area on the understanding that the railway will

### Inquiries of the Ministry

be able to recover from fares and otherwise the full costs of such services.

**Mr. Frank McGee (York-Scarborough):** May I ask a supplementary question. Did I understand the minister to say in his statement that if the municipalities concerned offered to subsidize this operation the railway would inaugurate additional commuter services?

**Mr. Hees:** That is correct.

### CIVIL DEFENCE

#### REFERENCE TO REPORTED STATEMENT BY LIEUT. GEN. GRAHAM

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the minister read the news report in the *Regina Leader-Post*, dated March 16, headed "No Defence Is Claimed". I raise this question because it is a most disturbing news report. It states in part:

The report, prepared by Lieutenant General Howard Graham, is also said to claim that the Canadian civil defence organization, for practical purposes, is non-existent.

Would the minister inform the house if there is a basis in fact for this news report?

**Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I have not actually seen the news report referred to, but I can assure the hon. member that there is no basis in fact for such a statement.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** May I ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare a supplementary question, arising out of that posed by the hon. member for Kootenay West. Can the minister confirm whether or not it is true that part of the functions of civil defence, now under his authority, are to be transferred to the office of the privy council, and certain other portions of his responsibilities to the Minister of National Defence?

**Mr. Monteith (Perth):** Mr. Speaker, in answer to a question on Wednesday last I said that a statement would be made in the house either by the end of this week or, at the very latest, in the first part of next week.

### WATER RESOURCES

#### FRASER RIVER BOARD—INQUIRY AS TO REAPPOINTMENT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** I have a question to direct to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, and I regret that I was not able to give him notice of it. I wonder if the minister is able to indicate