

Inquiries of the Ministry
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

REQUESTS FOR STATEMENT ON PRIORITY OF
 LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the time element, with September drawing close now, would the Prime Minister advise when he expects to announce the student loan policy?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): We hope to proceed with that, Mr. Speaker, as soon as we finish the resolutions on the flag and the anthem and the pension proposal which we will be bringing before the house. We will then proceed with the student loan and youth allowance matters.

Mr. Starr: A supplementary question. In any event, if all these matters are not cleaned up does the Prime Minister not think that the student loan policy is sufficiently important that one of the debates could be broken into so this could be put through?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I cannot contemplate that we will not be able to dispose of these other matters before the middle of July.

[*Translation*]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, does the government intend to grant two kinds of loans to students, in view of the fact that we will have two flags?

[*Text*]

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosiern): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. When can we expect the amendments to the Farm Improvement Loan Act and the Crop Insurance Act to be brought before the house?

Mr. Pearson: As soon as we complete the measures already mentioned.

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport having to do with the timetable respecting legislation. There is a report in this morning's paper which says "Transportation legislation shelved once more." In view of the tremendous importance of this legislation to a number of the provinces, and in view of the preparation which they must make to meet the committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines, would the Min-

[Mr. MacInnis.]

ister of Transport give some assurance that the resolution will be passed so that we can see the bill, and that then there will be a waiting period before it is proceeded with?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that if most hon. members followed the excellent example of the hon. member for Medicine Hat it would not be too long before we reached this measure.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, now that I have recovered from the unexpected and perhaps unwarranted flattery of the Minister of Transport, I wonder whether he would answer the question. The newspaper article to which I referred indicated that some official or officials of the Department of Transport had said that the transport legislation will be still further delayed. I should like to know if there has been a change of attitude by the Department of Transport with respect to priorities.

Mr. Pickersgill: There has been no change with respect to priorities, but in view of what has been going on it reads to me like rather intelligent speculation as to what might really happen.

Mr. Gene Rhéaume (Northwest Territories): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister consider using his influence with his colleagues to arrange to have the transportation legislation brought in prior to the resumption of the flag debate?

Mr. Pickersgill: No, sir.

Mr. R. R. Southam (Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the answer he gave the hon. member for Ontario a few moments ago regarding the student loan legislation, does he think the flag issue is more important than bringing in legislation to help students?

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker, but I recognize that my hon. friend would be very grateful indeed if we would rescue him and his party from their dilemma in regard to the flag debate.

UNITED NATIONS

PROSPECTIVE OTTAWA MEETING ON STAND-BY
 UNITS FOR PEACE FORCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister