

Inquiries of the Ministry

(Translation):

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

OTTAWA—REQUIREMENTS OF CONCESSIONAIRE
RESPECTING BILINGUAL EMPLOYEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Alexis Caron (Hull): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Balcer)? Is the minister aware of the fact that a concessionary at the Ottawa railway station forbids his employees to speak French under penalty of losing their job? If he is not aware of that, could he inquire about it and, if he is, would he be kind enough to act as he did at Dorval?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I did not know anything about what the hon. member has said, but I will inquire into it.

(Text):

SPORTS

HOCKEY—MINOR HOCKEY WEEK IN CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. O. W. Weichel (Waterloo North): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Is the Prime Minister aware of the fact that during this week the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association is sponsoring minor hockey week in Canada in which 200,000 Canadian youth will participate?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): I am aware of that fact, Mr. Speaker. I gave to that organization a message which I know would represent the views of all hon. members on what is being done by that organization generally and in particular by emphasizing the importance of junior hockey. The setting aside of a week for that purpose is most helpful to Canadians as a whole.

(Translation):

TRANSPORT

SOULANGES CANAL—REFERENCE TO REPORTED
REMARKS OF MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Azellus Denis (St. Denis): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport? According to yesterday's *Le Devoir*, the Minister of Transport made the following statement at a Conservative meeting in the constituency of Vaudreuil-Soulanges:

Quebec advocates of patronage would give the Soulanges canal to their friends.

A little later he went on to say:

... "A bunch of patronage friends"...

Would the Minister of Transport care to tell the house whether his remarks were faithfully reported by the paper, and if so, would he take the house into his confidence as to the details of such a dark scheme?

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: Order. Before the minister answers the second part of the question, I should like to call to the attention of the hon. member who raises the question the fact that it is not in accordance with the practice to ask on orders of the day for verification of the truth of a newspaper report. A question about the substance of the matter reported is in order, and I raise no objection to that part.

(Translation):

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, those remarks have unfortunately been reported accurately by the newspaper. I was carried away by the enthusiasm in the hall. If I used terms which offended some of my colleagues, I wish to apologize.

Mr. Denis: Mr. Speaker, as a protection against the big bad wolves who would try to appropriate the minister's canal, would the minister examine the advisability of incorporating in any future sale of the Soulanges canal, a clause which would prevent such a dilapidation of crown property.

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am not sure that the big bad wolves are any administrative responsibility of the minister. The question about a sale is purely hypothetical, and should not be asked.

(Translation):

THE CENSUS

On the orders of the day:

COMMUNICATIONS TO QUEBEC OF STATEMENT
BY MINISTER

Mr. Theogene Ricard (St. Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Hees). Would the minister tell this house whether a copy of the statement he made in the house yesterday concerning changes in some of the 1961 census questions has been sent to the government of the province of Quebec.

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce): No, Mr. Speaker. I am quite sure that they have already read with much interest the announcement published in the papers.