

*Inquiries of the Ministry***BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE****INQUIRY AS TO CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF
CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Transport. Is it the intention of the minister to allow the house to examine the annual report of the Canadian National Railways before the house proceeds with motion No. 8 on the order paper under government business, which introduces a resolution relating to Canadian National Railways and its financing?

Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that the order of business has been announced for the next eight days and this particular motion cannot come before the house before the expiry of that time, I do not think there is any urgency with regard to the information sought by the hon. member.

Mr. Fisher: There are a number of organizations including pensioners of Canadian National Railways, who wish to know well ahead of time if the annual report is up for review because, like last year, they want to have witnesses at the hearing. For that reason I should like to pin down, if possible, some kind of date for the appearance of the president of Canadian National Railways in Ottawa.

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to have a committee on the Canadian National and Trans-Canada Air Lines sit at this session. So far as the date of the sitting is concerned, it is too early for me to tell. In so far as the motion is concerned, the date upon which we will proceed with that will be announced by the house leader at the proper time.

(Translation):

FINANCE**ISSUE OF BILINGUAL CHEQUES TO MEMBERS
OF PARLIAMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gerald Laniel (Beauharnois-Salaberry): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Could he explain his department's delay in issuing bilingual cheques to members of this house? (Text):

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will take this question under consideration and give an answer in due course.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**POLIOMYELITIS—CONTINUATION OF USE OF
SALK VACCINE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): I should like to ask the Minister of National Health

[Mr. Fisher.]

and Welfare whether, in view of the disappointment and confusion caused by the minister's directive to postpone the free mass immunization against poliomyelitis with oral Sabin vaccine, he has any intention of giving a directive for the continuation of the free mass immunization against poliomyelitis with Salk vaccine at the earliest possible moment?

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite misleading to suggest that the Canadian people lack the utmost protection against polio that we can provide. As I indicated when the Sabin vaccine program was temporarily deferred last month, the incidence of this disease is extremely low at the moment. My advisory committee in this field recommended that the Salk vaccine program continue, and felt that Sabin vaccine could well be used if the need arose through any local outbreaks of polio. This approach was felt by the committee to be the soundest one to follow under present circumstances.

REPORTED APPROVAL OF UNSAFE LIFE JACKETS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Transport. Has the minister been informed of the coroner's jury's statement of last month in Toronto, that the federal Department of Transport approves life jackets which are not safe?

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member knows that his question is not of the type asked on orders of the day.

VANCOUVER—SUSPECTED CASE OF SMALLPOX

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack Davis (Coast-Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I apologize for not having communicated this question to him; however, I have just received this information from the west coast.

In view of the fact that a Colombo plan student has just arrived in Vancouver to attend university and is now a suspected carrier of smallpox, what measures will the department take in order to trace the other passengers aboard the Canadian Pacific Airlines airplane in this case in order to protect the rest of the Canadian community from the spread of this dreaded disease?

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, a Colombo plan student at the University of British Columbia, aged 26 years, reported to the dermatological clinic in Shaughnessy hospital, Vancouver, yesterday morning, October 1,