

Inquiries of the Ministry

of State for External Affairs. Did the Prime Minister and the President of the United States have any opportunity to discuss the Richelieu waterway during their meeting in Ottawa yesterday?

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs): I am surprised that the hon. member for Assiniboia should appear to be awaiting the answer to this question with such interest.

I shall be glad to accept the question as notice and see that it is forwarded to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Argue: You disappoint me.

An hon. Member: You are always disappointed.

UNITED NATIONS**UNESCO—APPOINTMENT OF CANADIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION EMPLOYEES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister, asking him whether he can explain to the house whether or not employees and staff members of the national commission for UNESCO, which is under the Canada Council, are appointed after competition.

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, surely that is not a question to be asked on orders of the day.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think that question would be more appropriate for the order paper.

(Translation):

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**USE OF LAND FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the day before yesterday the hon. member for St. Henry asked me whether I had received representations from the authorities of the city of Montreal concerning the replacement of the road-bed of C.N.R. lines in Montreal. As I had not understood his question properly, I should like to correct my answer.

We did receive a brief from the city of Montreal which dealt with several subjects of interest to both the municipal and federal authorities, including representations on the matter put to me by my hon. friend. I want to say to him that my officials, as well as those of the Canadian National Railways are still negotiating on this matter with the Montreal authorities.

[Mr. Johnson.]

Mr. J. P. Deschatelets (Maisonneuve-Rosemont): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us when this brief was received?

Mr. Balcer: I have the brief here, but unfortunately no date appears on it. If I remember right, it was received at least four or five weeks ago.

(Text):

COAL**CAPE BRETON—INQUIRY AS TO CHANGE IN SUBSIDIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, since the Leader of the Opposition asked his penetrating supplementary question on Tuesday, and the Prime Minister replied that the question should be directed to the Minister of National Revenue; and in view of the fact that both the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Revenue are absent today, I wonder whether the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys could give the house any information as to whether the government is making any change whatsoever in its subsidies for the coal mining industry so there will not be a complete shutdown of these three mines.

Hon. Paul Comtois (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, I cannot make any statement at this time.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Flynn in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

402. Departmental administration, \$3,395,700.

Mr. McMillan: Mr. Chairman, on Saturday afternoon I referred to the fact that it would be better for this government to bring in a bill to help shipping rather than by a \$1 item in the estimates. I said at that time I thought the government should be able to give an estimate as to the requirements in this respect, and if the estimate was not high enough no member in this house would refuse to vote a further supplementary estimate. I do not propose to refer to that further at this time, but I do wish to refer to a matter which has to do with several people in my district.

The oldest street car line in Canada ran between St. Catharines and Thorold. It was horse-drawn. It started in 1874. This line was electrified in 1882, and over the years it was gradually extended from St. Catharines