

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. McIlraith: No, Mr. Speaker, I was careful not to express it in that way.

Mr. Bell: In respect of the United States investigation concerning winter navigation, will the minister keep the house informed of the position and attitude of the government on this and in fact, if necessary, due to the joint nature of the seaway, insist on our rights to make representations on this important matter?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): In answer to that request, I think I should point out that the United States action now being taken is to create legislative authority for a study to be made. It is not the setting up of the study itself.

(Translation):

ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCES**INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Could he tell the house whether it is true, as reported in *Le Devoir* of this morning, that the royal inquiry on biculturalism will be set up next Monday?

(Text):

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we hope to be able to make an announcement on either Friday or Monday. That will depend on the replies we receive by that time from certain individuals who have been asked to serve on the commission.

(Translation):

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Does he intend to appoint Messrs. Gerard Pelletier and Andre Laurendeau on that commission?

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is a question which is not in order.

(Translation):

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister a supplementary question? While we are waiting for all that, would the Prime Minister be ever so kind as to provide us with the French version of Beauchesne, in view of the fact that the English edition of those citations often contain some very special legal terms which French speaking members find particularly hard to understand?

(Text):

Mr. Pearson: I am always happy to try to accommodate the hon. gentleman.

[Mr. Fisher.]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**PROPOSED EXTENSION OF RUN-THROUGH PROGRAM**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Port Arthur asked me a question concerning possible action to postpone C.N.R. run-throughs in western Canada, as appears at page 1976 of *Hansard*. A similar question was directed to me by the hon. member for Acadia on June 26, and I replied at that time, as shown at page 1606 of *Hansard*. A related question having to do with this subject matter was asked by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam on July 5, and was replied to by my colleague the Minister of Labour on July 8, as appears at page 1929 of *Hansard*.

There is not much I can add to these answers. Meetings were held in Winnipeg on February 5 and Edmonton on February 14, between C.N.R. management and senior running trades union representatives. There was a further meeting in Winnipeg on May 28 at which detailed plans were outlined for the run-through program. There have been requests to me for postponement of the run-through program in western Canada. However, this is a matter relating to the internal operation of the railway, and therefore the only thing I can do is draw the requests to the attention of the railway management. This I have done.

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which I would like to direct to the Minister of Labour. Is the minister aware that, in view of the decision not to intervene announced by the Minister of Transport, there is every likelihood that Canadian National Railways in western Canada will be tied up in mid-August with a wildcat strike?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the premise put forward by the hon. gentleman is not necessarily correct. I am aware of the situation about which my hon. colleague has made a reply, and I am very anxious that the Department of Labour take a responsible course in this situation which involves the relationship between workers and management that is covered by an existing agreement. It is within that context that the Department of Labour would discharge its responsibilities.

Mr. Fisher: As a supplementary question, would the minister consider investigating the true allegiance or true support that the senior members of the railway brotherhood, the running trades, now have in western Canada, because I think this is the crux of the situation?