

tion requiring the railways to first apply for abandonment of passenger service as a prerequisite to a subsidy application is causing needless anxiety and concern to the Canadian public, has the minister given any consideration to amending the legislation to allow the railways to apply for a subsidy without going through the presently required ridiculous procedure?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker, not on that particular point because, without getting argumentative about it, I am not sure how you could determine the size of the subsidy or whether or not it was warranted without having a hearing. But I will be glad to examine the matter.

Mr. Thomas (Moncton): Since the minister has already indicated in reply to a previous question that he is studying ways of reviewing freight rate increases before they are put into effect, does this mean that there might be some important changes in the National Transportation Act coming before the House soon?

Mr. Jamieson: I do not anticipate that it will be soon, Mr. Speaker.

INTENTION OF CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS TO DISCONTINUE OTTAWA-TORONTO PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I merely want to point out to the hon. member and to all hon. members that we will be running short of time and we should try for the next few minutes to limit supplementary questions as much as possible. But the Chair has recognized the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

Mr. Hees: With regard to the application of Canadian National Railways to cut off passenger service between Ottawa and Toronto, would the minister advise the management of the CNR that that railway exists to serve the Canadian public and that it is not in the public interest—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: —to cut off the passenger service between the capital and one of the two largest cities in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a question but a submission. The hon. member has to assume that it will be taken into account. We have to go on to the next subject.

PENITENTIARIES

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON SHORT TERM POLICIES RESPECTING REFORMS

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): My question is directed to the Solicitor General but before doing so I should like to commend the minister for doing away with the numbering—

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should ask his question.

Mr. Gilbert: I will, but I would first like to suggest that he should be commended for doing away with the numbering of prisoners' garb in penitentiaries. It indicates that he is not attempting to treat the prisoners—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Hillsborough.

[Later:]

I believe the hon. member for Broadview had a supplementary statement to make to the House.

Mr. Gilbert: I will put my question now. In view of the progressive measure which the minister has taken with regard to prisoners in penitentiaries, would he make a statement on motions in the next week setting forth his short-term policies concerning reforms in penitentiaries to ease the tensions that prevail in these institutions?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, we will announce from time to time the reforms we propose to make.

As to the basic changes, I think that the hon. member should wait a little so that we may gather our ideas and we will announce them in due course.

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[English]

TRANSPORT

WOOD ISLAND-CARIBOU FERRY SERVICE—INQUIRY AS TO INCREASE IN SUBSIDY

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport, whose reply to my letter I appreciate very much. Is he giving consideration to taking appropriate action to increase the subsidy on the Wood Island-Caribou run, where it has been obviously demonstrated that an increase is needed?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): As I mentioned earlier, this service is subsidized through the Canadian Transport Commission. They are meeting on it today. I dare not anticipate what they might do, but they know what I did on the other run.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UKRAINIAN NATIONALISM—RESULT OF MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND REPRESENTATIVES OF UKRAINIAN-CANADIAN COMMITTEE

Mr. Allen B. Sulatycky (Rocky Mountain): I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. I wonder whether the Prime Minister could indicate whether his meeting with the executive of the Ukrainian-Canadian Committee yesterday resulted in any common understanding?