

Inquiries of the Ministry

requests to reconsider decisions, but I am afraid that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has missed the point of my answer. The point is that in order to continue these displays and musical rides, it is necessary to maintain a pool of trained men from which those who participate in these rides are chosen. It is with a view to maintaining that pool that the steps outlined in my reply were taken.

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): By way of a supplementary question, may I ask if I would be correct in understanding that the ride is not being abandoned but is simply not going to be performed continuously until this pool of trained horsemen can be built up, and after that it will then be continued?

Mr. Garson: Certainly the ride is not being abandoned. Perhaps I had better read again what I said and ask the hon. member to listen carefully to it.

Mr. Fulton: I think you had, because you have said two contradictory things now.

Mr. Garson: In my reply I indicated that, as a result of the activities in putting on these musical rides and other displays, the pool from which we can draw for good riders has been depleted, and it is with the intention of building up this pool so that we can continue the musical ride—

Mr. Fulton: That is what I asked you.

Mr. Garson: —that we want to concentrate the next year on basic equitation, curtailing ceremonial functions and mounted displays. In this way we can build up the pool so we can continue the policy the Leader of the Opposition recommends.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. McCann: Whoa.

Mr. Rowe: The minister yells "whoa", and I am glad that he knows something about horsemanship. I should like to ask the Minister of Justice, as one interested in—

Mr. Garson: The minister to whom the hon. member is addressing his remarks did not yell "whoa".

Mr. Rowe: I was referring to the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. McCann). I presume the Minister of Justice knows something about horsemanship, but I might ask him if he knows any better way of developing horsemanship than by practising.

Mr. Garson: That is precisely what this policy I have outlined is aimed at.

Mr. Drew: Does the minister not think that the very existence of this trained unit is in itself the greatest possible attraction to that

pool they would seek to train, and that its discontinuance would in itself discourage the creation of a pool of horsemen required for this purpose?

Mr. Garson: The answer is no; I do not think so.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**LAY-OFF OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN
CENTRAL ONTARIO**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. O. White (Middlesex East): Mr. Speaker, just to get away from horses for a moment, I should like to ask a question about the railways. Would the Minister of Transport tell me if it is true that approximately 500 employees of the Canadian National Railways in the central Ontario region have been laid off, or are about to be laid off?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I was asked some weeks ago by another hon. member a question having to do with lay-offs on the Canadian National Railways. While I am not able to tell the hon. member what the numbers are, I do know that there are some employees of the Canadian National Railways who have been laid off because of the decline in traffic. What the numbers are in central Ontario I am not able to say at the present time, but I shall be glad to find out.

**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY
ORGANIZATION****REFERENCE TO STATEMENT BY LORD ISMAY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jean-François Pouliot (Temiscouata): Mr. Speaker, I have drawn the attention of my distinguished friend and very able colleague, the parliamentary assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to a distressing front-page news item in the *Montreal Gazette* on Monday morning. It reads as follows—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member must put his question. It is not in order to read a telegram or extract from a newspaper upon asking a question before the orders of the day are called. Would the hon. member put his question, please.

Mr. Pouliot: Yes, sir. This a distressing news item of urgent international importance, and I shall have to read the summary as set out in the headline of the article before asking my question. I took the trouble to mention the fact to my hon. friend, the parliamentary assistant to the Secretary of