

Inquiries of the Ministry

final, and we certainly do not consider them so. I do believe that a re-examination of the NATO alliance—indeed, we have been carrying on such a re-examination for some time—is desirable, and far from this re-examination resulting in the disintegration of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization I should think it would result in strengthening the alliance by making it, if possible, less of a military alliance and more of a political and economic alliance.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION INTO
GASPÉ-MATAPÉDIA SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Keays (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Due to the callous attitude shown by the C.N.R. to some 200,000 people who may travel by rail between Gaspé and Matapédia, would the minister consider ordering an immediate inquiry into the situation?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to inquire into the matter.

AGRICULTURE**ALBERTA—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE
TO FARMERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. M. Horner (Jasper-Edson): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. I am wondering whether over the week end he reconciled his differences with the Minister of Agriculture for the province of Alberta, and has he now received an official request and will he give consideration to additional assistance for farmers in northwestern Alberta?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Well, Mr. Speaker, I have never had any differences with the Minister of Agriculture for the province of Alberta—

Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson): That isn't what he says.

Mr. Greene: —who is a most courteous and charming gentleman, but I will say, Mr. Speaker, that there have been no new requests. The original request was made last December for payments supplementing P.F.A.A. payments. I have already made my statement in this house with regard to the impropriety of preferring one P.F.A.A. area over another, and I do not believe there has been any change in this situation.

[Mr. Pearson.]

Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson): Then would the minister get in touch with the P.F.A.A. officials and try to speed up the issuance of cheques for inspections which were made last December, payments that have not yet been made in my area?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has made his point with the minister.

[Translation]

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION**SUGGESTED STUDY BY PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a single question to the President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada.

Is the federal government still considering the creation of an all-party parliamentary committee to study changes to our Canadian constitution and can we anticipate an answer in this connection in the near future?

Hon. Guy Favreau (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the right hon. Prime Minister has already answered that question by saying that the possible creation of a committee was under consideration.

[English]

FINANCE**REPORTED SPEECH BY IMMIGRATION
MINISTER RESPECTING TAXES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Could the Prime Minister advise the house whether the speech of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration was reflecting government policy when he said higher taxes are inevitable and that a capital gains tax is on the way?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): That is the statement of my hon. friend which he has attributed to the minister, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Has the minister been correctly quoted when he is reported as having said he expects higher taxes and he is himself in favour of a capital gains tax?