

department and the minister. As and when the committee wishes to submit such advice to me, it will do so and if the matter seems to warrant it, we will discuss it and report to the House.

[English]

IMMIGRATION

PROVISION OF CHINESE INTERPRETER SERVICE AT VANCOUVER

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. On December 11, 1969, I asked the minister whether, in view of difficulties encountered by the Chinese people in conversing with immigration officials in Vancouver and surrounding areas, he would consider reinstating the Chinese interpreter services which have been eliminated without any explanation. At that time he did not answer. Is he willing to answer my question now?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that all services of that character will be furnished as required in that area.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

DERAILMENT AT TORONTO—ADEQUACY OF MAINTENANCE FORCES

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the recent derailment of a CNR passenger train near Toronto as a result of faulty equipment, will the minister say whether adequate maintenance forces are employed to maintain track and equipment in a safe condition for the travelling public and employees?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, that is obviously such a complex question that I prefer to take it as notice.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question with alarming implications to direct to the Minister of National Health and Welfare which results from a statement made by a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council, the Hon. Judy LaMarsh, during the recess to the effect that

International Development Research Centre the Prime Minister has no heart. What arrangements are being made for a transplant and which minister will volunteer?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I must bring to the attention of hon. members that the question period expired a few moments ago. A number of hon. members were anxious to ask questions. I have tried to take note of them and will perhaps give them precedence tomorrow.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. On the last day before the recess, namely, Friday, December 19, 1969, as recorded at page 2184 of *Hansard*, a statement was made from the Chair, and appropriate action ought to be taken. In view of the statement from the Chair—and the Chair is always right—that “the Senate has now expired”, I wonder if appropriate steps will now be taken to advise their Honours that they need not bother to come back on January 27.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (3:20 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE

PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs) moved that Bill C-12, to establish the International Development Research Centre of Canada, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this measure is one of the most promising and exciting proposals to come before this House for some time. The bill provides for the establishment of an International Development Research Centre of Canada. This can be a new and dynamic element in Canada's contribution to the global struggle to improve the quality of life in the less privileged areas of the world.

It is now two decades since Canada first entered the field of co-operative international development as a founding member of the Colombo Plan. The recent meeting of the Colombo Plan Council in Victoria demonstrated how greatly our understanding of the com-