

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Pickersgill:** As a result of a notice I received, I assume that what is to be discussed is not the abandonment of any specific line, but rather the general procedures to be followed in dealing with the applications. For that reason I should not think the results of any study would be relevant to the purposes of the conference.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** I have a further supplementary question. Will the results of the studies be made available to interested parties as they are completed?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I am sure any information in the possession of the board or under my control as Minister of Transport which is relevant to the conference will be made available.

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question which is related, or could be construed as supplementary. Will the minister put some teeth in the guarantee in respect of certain branch lines, which will assure the replacement of the bridge which was destroyed at Chelan, Saskatchewan, in order to provide service as it was prior to the destruction?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I have already taken this matter up with the officials of the Canadian National Railways. As the hon. member suggested, this particular line is a guaranteed line. I assume the Board of Transport Commissioners will have certain jurisdiction in respect of this matter, although it is hazardous for a minister to make statements which probably constitute a legal opinion. In any case I have drawn this matter to the attention of the board.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, having regard to the matter raised by the hon. member for Mackenzie, is the minister aware, as I am sure he is, of the serious situation in which the people along this line find themselves as a result of the fire which destroyed the bridge on May 16?

I need not bring to the minister's attention the fact that this loss of transportation facilities to outside areas has resulted in complete stultification. While the minister does not have the authority to direct, will he bring to the attention of the officials of the Canadian National Railways the imperative necessity of transportation through this area, and the fact that there has been a long delay in this regard?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I will be happy to bring the words of the right hon. gentleman to the attention of the railway officials, and I am sure they will be much more effective than anything I might say.

**Mr. Korchinski:** I have a further supplementary question. Can the minister give us some assurance that the transport commission will be duly appointed in such a way that representations can be made to an authority which will have greater power than the present board of transportation commissioners?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Since parliament decided the Canadian Transport Commission should be established, it is not difficult for me to give an assurance that it will be established. I cannot give a concrete date in respect of this establishment, but I hope it will be early in September.

[Translation]

**LABOUR CONDITIONS****CLARKE CITY, P.Q.—REHIRING OF EMPLOYEES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gustave Blouin (Saguenay):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, but in his absence, I shall put it to his parliamentary assistant.

It has to do with a Canadian Press release, under date of July 5, announcing the closing down, at Clarke City, of the Gulf Pulp & Paper pulp mill which had been in operation for 60 years, and the lay-off of its 200 permanent employees. I should like to know from the minister whether arrangements have been or will be made to transfer or place those workers in other industries, preferably in the mining industry of that very region?

[English]

**Mr. J. C. Munro (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, the facilities of the Canadian manpower centre have been made available to assist in replacing and retraining the displaced workers at this plant.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS****PROPOSAL THAT PROCEEDINGS BE TELEVISED**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister about the expressed desire on