

Inquiries of the Ministry
COMMUNICATIONS

SALE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA TELEPHONE AND
TELEGRAPH SYSTEM—PROVISION FOR EMPLOYEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister now in a position to answer my question as to what provision is being made for government employees when the telephone and telegraph services of the federal government in British Columbia are taken over by private companies on April 1?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I am unable to add a great deal to what I have already said. The reason for that is that negotiations with the British Columbia Telephone Company have been proceeding satisfactorily. The negotiations with the Canadian National Telegraph Company have not yet been completed. These negotiations are proceeding at the present time. In any event, if it is felt that there is any immediate urgency the railways and shipping committee will be sitting all of next week and members of that committee can obtain information from Canadian National railway officials in connection with that part of the undertaking.

Mr. Winch: I would like to ask a supplementary question. Is the minister aware of the fact that agents of the Canadian National Telegraph Company have been visiting government employees now in the service for over a period of two weeks and informing them where they stand as far as the Canadian National telegraph service is concerned?

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, I should think that that is exactly what should take place and that the purchaser would wish to communicate with the vendor and ascertain what relationship will exist after the sale. That is I presume the reason why the officers of the Canadian National Telegraph Company have been in communication with the employees of the government telegraph and telephone services.

Mr. Winch: They have not asked them, they have told them.

Mr. Chevrier: As to what is transpiring between these two bodies I would rather not make any statement until the negotiations between our people and the Canadian National Telegraph Company have been completed.

[Mr. Abbott.]

CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING
CORPORATION

TABLING OF SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER TO
QUESTION ASKED MARCH 8

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Bourget (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, on March 8 the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Winters) was asked a question in regard to *Votes and Proceedings* No. 59, for February 26, in the name of the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings (Mr. Nowlan), and he stated at that time that it would be difficult to supply all the information sought, but that if it was agreeable to the hon. member the information would be provided which it was hoped would serve the purposes he had in mind. The hon. member agreed to have the question answered in a modified form, and I am tabling the answer now.

PIPE LINES

INQUIRY AS TO PROVISION OF SUBSIDIES—TRANS-
CANADA GAS LINE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Carl O. Nickle (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Defence Production. Has the government made any commitments, verbal or in writing, for the provision of tax concessions, tax remissions or any other form of subsidy in order to make financially feasible a trans-Canada gas pipe line in the form apparently desired by this government? If so, what are those subsidies? If not, does the government intend to extend such subsidies?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Defence Production): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is no. The second and third parts are answered by the answer to No. 1.

SUPPLY

INCOME TAX—PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

The house resumed, from Tuesday, March 23, consideration of the motion of Mr. Abbott for committee of supply.

Mr. LaCroix: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member going to debate the subject which was under discussion prior to the adjournment last night?

Mr. LaCroix: Yes.