

*Inquiries of the Ministry***TRANSPORTATION**REPORTED DIFFICULTIES RESPECTING
TRANSCONTINENTAL TRAVEL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. This is a question of service to the people themselves. I was glad to hear the question put by the other hon. member with reference to labour unions. In view of the fact that it is almost impossible to get reservations on transcontinental trains out of the major cities of Canada, and also in view of the near impossibility of getting reservations on Air Canada, has the government given any consideration to asking the railways to continue with their responsibility of supplying transportation service, and has the government considered enlarging the scope of jurisdiction of C.P.A. so they can fly passengers between points in this country?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, both those matters are receiving very active consideration at the moment.

Mr. Woolliams: A further supplementary question. We would like to know how long this consideration will take. Would the government be prepared to set up a special inquiry to determine the situation which has been raised by the hon. member with reference to unions, and the question of the service which is given to passengers in this country?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I am sure I can say on behalf of all my colleagues that the government will be prepared to do anything possible to improve the transportation services in this country.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I have been trying to get the floor with respect to another question, but the last reply of the minister brings to mind a supplementary question which I wish to ask. Speaking of transportation, how many aircraft were laid on by the Department of Transport on Friday night following the vote in order to take care of ministers going about the country?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a proper question. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I have been trying to get the floor to ask the Minister of Labour a question.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. The hon. member will have a chance again.

FINANCEAVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS
OF TAXATION COMMISSION REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Were draft chapters of the report of the Carter royal commission on taxation made available to officers of the Department of Finance even though this report has not yet been presented to His Excellency the Governor General?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is yes. Indeed, when I spoke to the Canadian Club on January 3 of this year I made the following remarks:

In view of the delay in the completion of the report, arrangements have been made for officers of the Department of Finance to see, on a confidential basis, not only the research studies prepared for the commission but also more recently the draft chapters as they were approved for translation. This is enabling the department, with the aid of its expert full-time consultants, to do technical and analytical work necessary to prepare for implementation of whatever decisions the government may take on the report after it has been published and properly considered and discussed.

Mr. Knowles: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. By what authority was this done, in view of the established practice that royal commission reports are secret to the commission until such time as they are actually presented to His Excellency the Governor General? Does not this question have particular force in view of the fact that these were draft chapters and could, perhaps, be changed if influence was brought to bear?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I am quite confident that the members of this royal commission, who were not appointed by this government, would not be subject to any such pressure.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, the minister has not answered my supplementary question. By what authority was this done?

Mr. Sharp: I do not think it required any special authority, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps it was different from the practice which has been followed in the past, but so is this royal commission of rather a different character. This is going to be the most extensive review