

*Inquiries of the Ministry***FREIGHT RATES****MARITIME PROVINCES—REQUEST FOR DELAY
IN PROPOSED INCREASES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): I have a question for the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker, before he disappears again. In view of the decision yesterday of the Canadian Transport Commission permitting further rate increases on maritime products, will the minister say what is the position of the Atlantic provinces transportation task force and when the transport committee of the house will be able to reconvene to hear from maritime representatives?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I understand that I will very soon have a report from the Canadian Transport Commission in reference to part of the study, particularly that part concerned with less than carload lots. In so far as the convening of the parliamentary committee is concerned, as I indicated to the house before there is certainly no objection on the part of the government to the reconvening of the transport committee which was involved in this question at an earlier date. We would lend every assistance to that committee in pursuing the studies which were interrupted last spring.

Mr. Bell: I should like to thank the minister for that information. Since it appears it will be some time before corrective measures will be introduced, perhaps justifiably, may I ask the minister if he will give every assurance—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to bring to the hon. member's attention the fact that there are just a few minutes left in the question period. He should really ask his question as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Bell: Will the minister give every assurance that the freeze which will run out in September will be continued by legislation if necessary?

Mr. Hellyer: Well, I note the hon. gentleman's representations, Mr. Speaker, which I can assure him will be given careful consideration by the government.

[Mr. Davis.]

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY**PROPOSED CLOSING OF STATIONS IN
SOUTHWESTERN SASKATCHEWAN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): My question is for the Minister of Transport. I would ask the minister to inquire into and report to this house on the decision to close all Canadian Pacific stations in the Moose Jaw division serving southwestern Saskatchewan, and to ascertain whether this action can be postponed until such time as the farm and business associations in the areas affected can make representations to the appropriate bodies.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is making representations to the minister, and at this point I have to call orders of the day.

Mr. McIntosh: May I rephrase my question. In view of the words I have just uttered, will the minister see that this action is stopped until representations can be made to that body?

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I have waited until the question period expired, but I feel that at this time I should bring to Your Honour's attention something which you must have noticed. When a minister of the crown who is pursuing his occupation somewhere other than in this house comes back and answers several questions, as did the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce today, confusion is created when a number of members would like to follow up with supplementary questions. They find difficulty in being recognized in order to pursue this line of questioning in a normal, orderly way. If the government intends to proceed with this improper and silly method of answering questions, I should think they would at least work out a system which would permit supplementary questions following the several questions which may have been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I might say that I have noticed the difficulty created when more than one question is answered by a minister. We easily get into trouble later on in ascertaining which supplementary question is being asked. Perhaps the representations now made by the hon. member will be noted by the ministers.