

Inquiries of the Ministry

to debate the matter at the time of adjournment. This provision is really a protection for hon. members.

TRANSPORT**ACTION ON MEASURE RESPECTING
MARITIME FREIGHT RATES**

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Minister of Transport. Will the minister make a clear and definite statement with regard to the government's intention in respect of Bill C-182 regarding the Maritime Freight Rates Act to alleviate the fears of truckers and shippers in that area. I ask the question because the Minister of Transport along with six other ministers is away again on a day when he should be here evidently with the approval of the Prime Minister.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): All the departments in question are represented here today.

Mr. Bell: Not very well.

An hon. Member: Half represented.

NATIONAL CAPITAL**REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION BY
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which I intended to direct to the minister who reports on National Capital matters. I do not see him in the house. Perhaps I might be allowed to address this question to the Prime Minister. What consideration is being given to implementation of the policy endorsed by the last parliament which called for the establishment of a parliamentary committee to deal with National Capital matters?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): This is not a day when this department is to answer questions in the house, Mr. Speaker.

FINANCE**SUGGESTED REMOVAL OF SALES TAX ON
BUILDING MATERIALS**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio acting on behalf of the minister in charge of housing. In view of the sudden and astronomical rise in the price of wood used as building material, will the government give consideration to eliminating the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[Mr. Speaker.]

DEFENCE PRODUCTION**SEA TRIALS OF HYDROFOIL**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is not of earthshaking urgency, but I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence, in light of the very great concern and interest, whether he could indicate briefly to the house the degree of satisfaction there has been from the sea trials of the Canadian hydrofoil, the *Bras d'Or*?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure the question as asked has really the degree of urgency that would qualify it as a question acceptable at this time.

AIR CANADA**POSSIBILITY OF MECHANICS STRIKE—
SHIPMENT OF PERISHABLE
COMMODITIES**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Prime Minister said that a committee of cabinet is embarked on contingency planning in the event that unfortunately a strike should take place in Air Canada.

In view of the fact that a great many people across Canada are concerned about the shipment of perishable commodities, can the Prime Minister indicate who is the chairman of that committee and to whom representations should be made in the event people run into serious problems in respect of the shipment of those commodities?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, representations should not be made to the chairman of the committee, but rather to the Minister of Transport.

INCOME TAX**COLLECTION OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TAX
BEFORE APPROVAL**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance I should like to direct my question to the President of the Privy Council. When does the government intend to bring forward legislation regarding the so-called social development tax? Does the government consider it appropriate to collect this tax indefinitely without parliamentary authorization, or is it considering the abandonment of the tax?