

Transport of B.C. Coal

2. How many since have been disposed of to organizations or private individuals?

3. How many are still on hand?

There can be no excuse for the government not to answer that question except that the government would be embarrassed by the answer. That is the only reason. I raise the strongest objection to this kind of treatment of the House whereby starred questions are relegated to a secondary position and members are unable to get answers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jerome: Mr. Speaker, I have a note of the number. I can say to the House that at this point in time we are ahead of last year's schedule as far as answering questions of this kind is concerned.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, that just shows how inefficient this government is and how it covers up by endeavouring to say it is better this year than it was last year.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

TRANSPORT

SUPREME COURT JUDGMENT ENABLING CARRIAGE OF COAL BY RAIL FROM EAST KOOTENAY REGION TO ROBERTS BANK, B.C., BY UNITED STATES ROUTE

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Harding), to make a motion for the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada, by five to four, that the Canadian Transport Commission erred in its judgment when considering the application of the Kootenay and Elk Railway Company and Burlington Northern Inc. to build a railway line from the province of British Columbia to the state of Montana to haul coal from the East Kootenays to Roberts Bank, B.C. via a United States route, which could result in the loss of hundreds of jobs in Canada both on the railway and in other related services, thus making necessary the introduction of amendments to the Railway Act so that the Canadian Transport Commission can make decisions based on public interest or any other adequate reasons.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has given the Chair the required notice. As the hon. member and all hon. members know, the Standing Order requires members to give notice, which is a statement of the matter about which adjournment of the House is sought, without argument and unaccompanied. I think these statements should be as short as possible. This statement is perhaps borderline, and certainly I do not object to it basically.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

I have looked at the matter as closely as possible and with all the sympathy possible. However, I find it difficult to conceive that the Standing Order is given to the House for the purpose of adjournments to consider questions of this type. I really have to suggest to the hon. member that this is not the type of situation which is envisaged by the Standing Order. I would think it is the type of question about which a motion might be made under Standing Order 43, or about which questions might be asked which might be considered further during the adjournment proceedings, or about which bill might be introduced for debate when the appropriate time comes. But I respectfully suggest to the hon. member and to the House that the motion is not in order in that the situation referred to, which is, of course, important and of national interest, is not the kind of situation which is contemplated by the Standing Order. In the circumstances, I cannot see my way clear to make a ruling that the Standing Order applies so that a motion for the adjournment of the House could be put at this time.

• (1430)

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, notice of motion for the production of papers No. 43 is acceptable to the government subject to the usual reservations concerning confidential documents.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that notice of motion No. 43 be deemed to have been adopted?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN JOHN LAMMERS AND MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Motion No. 43—**Mr. Orlikow:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of all correspondence between Mr. John Lammers of Yukon Wilderness Limited and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and/or any officials in that Department.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Jerome: Would Your Honour be so kind as to call notices of motions Nos. 9 and 45?

COPY OF STUDY BY REGINALD J. ROY, MONTREAL, REGARDING "ANALYSIS OF OPERATIONAL REPORTS AND COURSES FOR THE OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING OF ADULTS PROGRAM"

Motion No. 9—**Mr. Orlikow:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the study by Reginald J. Roy, Montreal, undertaken for the Department of Manpower and Immigration regarding the "Analysis of operational reports and courses for the Occupational Training of Adults Program".