

Inquiries of the Ministry

not yet passed the West German parliament. We have asked for the text of the legislation, which we expect to acquire very shortly, and when it becomes available we will examine it to see to what extent Canadian interests are affected and what can be done, if they are affected, to protect them.

(Translation):

STORMS

QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gerard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

I learned with pleasure that the Quebec government had decided to grant financial help in the amount of \$640,000 to the victims of Abitibi West. Can the Prime Minister tell us whether the Quebec government has requested the federal government's assistance and, in that case, to what extent does the government intend to help the victims of Abitibi West?

(Text):

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): To my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, no such request for additional assistance has been received from the provincial government.

(Translation):

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

LEOPOLD DION—APPOINTMENT OF LAWYER AND PSYCHIATRIST TO STUDY RECORDS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take this opportunity to reply to another question which was asked me concerning a man called Dion.

On July 25, I stated that I was looking for a psychiatrist and a lawyer. I have now found both of them. The psychiatrist is Dr. Fernand Côté, associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Montreal and chief of the department of psychiatry at Maisonneuve hospital. The lawyer is Mr. Norman Borins, of Toronto.

(Text):

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SURCHARGE ORDER—REQUEST FOR DELAY IN LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to either the Prime Minister or the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact that the house, by its votes on the second reading of Bill No. C-88, has indicated what it would do if necessary, will the government now consider delaying any further action on that bill until the Exchequer Court of Can-

28902-5—187½

ada reached a decision on the matters referred to it?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I should like to point out to the hon. member that there is a substantial sum of money involved in this matter, I believe some hundreds of millions of dollars, and that by bringing forward this legislation the government has indicated it is important, because of the doubt, to validate this order by act of parliament. I think under the circumstances I would hesitate to recommend that the matter be delayed.

Mr. Knowles: May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has it not been clearly indicated by the house that if the decision were that the order is invalid, legislation would be passed and would be made retroactive? Would it not be a good idea to have the court's decision rather than argument back and forth by assertion?

Mr. Chevrier: Well, I doubt whether that would be so. In any event, I should like to have a further look at it, perhaps during the luncheon recess. The matter will not be reached before luncheon, I expect, and I will be pleased to look at it in the meantime.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

MANSEAU, QUE.—IMPROVEMENT OF LEVEL CROSSING

On the orders of the day:

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Lotbiniere asked me a question concerning the Quebec department of highways application to the board of transport commissioners dealing with the widening of the level crossing in the village of Manseau.

I want to inform the hon. member that an application was made to the board in April, that the applicant was granted authority to widen, at its own expense, the highway where it crossed over the railway; that the order fixed the cost of maintenance of the widened crossing at 66⅔ per cent by the C.N.R. and 33⅓ per cent by the applicant; that in the same order authority was granted to the railway to relocate and revise the existing automatic protection signals; that the cost of relocating and revising the said protection was to be borne and paid by the applicant, and that the cost, maintenance and operation of the protection as relocated and revised was to be borne 50 per cent by the applicant and 50 per cent by the C.N.R.

INQUIRY AS TO REAPPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime