

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I agree with my hon. friend on the importance of the question. At the last federal-provincial conference we made proposals which will result in increased assistance to the provinces. The hon. member may also recall that in the list of legislative proposals I mentioned was a bill for further assistance to post-secondary education. Our proposals will be made at that time, and I hope that will be soon.

BILINGUALISM AND BICULTURALISM**INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Prime Minister. Some time before Christmas I asked the right hon. gentleman when the final report of the B and B commission would be available. At that time he felt it would be filed before Christmas. Could he shed more light on the matter at this time?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I can throw a little more light on it, Mr. Speaker. It is hoped that the report of this important commission will be made this summer. I certainly hope it will be.

Mr. Skoreyko: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I hate to disagree with the Prime Minister when he calls it an important commission—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should not argue; he should ask his question.

Mr. Skoreyko: I disagree that the commission—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member knows he should not say that. He cannot enter into an argument. He may ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Skoreyko: In view of the delay, is the Prime Minister prepared to tell this house how many more thousands of dollars must be spent by the government of Canada on this absolutely ridiculous commission?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question period has expired.

[Mr. Rynard.]

• (4:00 p.m.)

TRANSPORTATION**PROVISION FOR DEFINITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL POLICY**

The house resumed from Tuesday, January 24, consideration in committee of Bill No. C-231, to define and implement a national transportation policy for Canada, to amend the Railway Act and other acts in consequence thereof, and to enact other consequential provisions—Mr. Pickersgill—Mr. Batten in the chair.

The Chairman: When the committee resumed consideration on clause 74 and the amendment moved thereto yesterday afternoon, the hon. member for Bow River, on a point of order, rose to speak about the validity of the amendment. A number of committee members made statements for which I am grateful. At the end of these the committee extended to me time to examine the statements made. For that I am also grateful.

I apologize for not having been able to make a ruling last evening. Considering the fundamental rules of procedure involved and the complexity of the bill before the committee I thought it wise to take enough time to read the statements of hon. members, to read the citations referred to, and to compare the two proposals involved. I have done that and am prepared to rule if the committee wishes that I do so.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chairman: Does the committee wish me to do that now?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Pickersgill: Can it be understood that clause 1, on which the committee was proceeding last night, shall stand? When Your Honour has made his ruling we shall be on clause 74 and not clause 1.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chairman: The officials at the table advise me that when the committee rose last evening, clause 1 and the amendment of the hon. member for Calgary South were being considered. Is it the wish of the committee that clause 1 stand, and that I proceed with the ruling on the point of order, on clause 74 and the amendment?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.