

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. MacInnis: The Prime Minister is asking where my leader is. He is in the west, serving the nation by eliminating the possibility of this government strengthening itself by electing another member.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: That is hardly a question of privilege. I think that at this point we should give the right hon. member for Prince Albert a chance to ask his question because we have come to the end of the question period.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Well, I would not want to bring up anything that would be provocative.

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GRAIN**POSSIBLE RE-INTRODUCTION OF STABILIZATION BILL—
RELATIONSHIP TO BY-ELECTION IN ASSINIBOIA**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether or not, following November 8, there will be introduced in the House a stabilization bill to take the place of the one which was withdrawn, and containing amendments such as were asked for by various farm organizations in western Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): That is certainly an interesting question coming from an important member of the official opposition party. We are glad to see that some hon. members opposite are at last converted to the stabilization formula. We hope they will convey the message to other members of the party and to their leader. Perhaps we can then discuss this matter and bring it up again in a future session.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That has become the stock answer, Mr. Speaker; I knew that would be the answer. It leads me to ask the Prime Minister whether or not the Minister of Manpower, speaking in Avonlea, Saskatchewan—a copy of his speech was made available to all of us—undertook that if Jim Hooker is elected—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: The hook comes a little later.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: —if Jim Hooker is elected he will get that stabilization bill into and through the House of Commons. Does this mean, if he was speaking as a member of the government, that the Prime Minister has given up all hope of that result in Assiniboia?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have reached the end of the question period but I think we might allow the hon.

[Mr. Speaker.]

member for Winnipeg North Centre to ask a last question before we turn to the orders of the day.

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PENSIONS**RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING
POSITION OF RETIRED CANADIAN NATIONAL AND
CANADIAN PACIFIC EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport? On September 8 and October 8 I asked the minister questions regarding the position of retired employees of the Canadian Pacific Railway and Canadian National Railways and he promised to make further representations to those two companies. Has he anything further to report at this time?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I made representations as I had undertaken to do. I regret to advise the hon. member that within the last few days I have received a letter from Canadian Pacific indicating that they are not prepared at this time to make any further changes in their pension program. Having received this reply, I know of no other course of action left open to me.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Has the minister received any reply from the Canadian National with respect to the matter I drew to his attention on October 8?

Mr. Jamieson: No, Mr. Speaker. To the best of my knowledge I have not received a reply from Canadian National on that matter.

I wonder if I might answer a question posed to me yesterday by the right hon. member for Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have pointed out to hon. members that the question period expired three or four minutes ago. The minister could, of course, reply with the consent of the House. Is this agreed?

Mr. McCleave: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, one of my hon. friends had a supplementary to ask in connection with the last question. I think that should be allowed before the minister is permitted to answer a question asked yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: In that case the Chair will call orders of the day.

Mr. Carter: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. For two days I have been trying to put a question to the Minister of Transport on a matter which affects the livelihood of a large number of people.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have made a note of this and I undertake to the hon. member to give him priority tomorrow. I hope the minister will be here to answer his question. Of course, with the consent of the House the hon. member could ask his question now.

An hon. Member: No.