

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

and the hon. member for Three Rivers is just as capable of interpreting them and just as competent to interpret them as I am.

**Mr. Balcer:** Mr. Speaker, as a further supplementary question, could the minister tell us whether the government has been asked by T.C.A. to take over this \$4 million yearly deficit on its own account instead of having it charged to the account of T.C.A.?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** To the best of my knowledge T.C.A. has never indicated to the government that there would be any such deficit; therefore there has been no request to take it over.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Kootenay West.

**Mr. McIntosh:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Gregoire:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** There are two more supplementary questions and I think that should terminate the discussion. The hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek.

**Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister whether he would consider putting the Viscount back on the prairie run, and that would solve the problem for everybody.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Speaker, I am not going to go into the business of running an air line myself.

[Later:]

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary question, I would like to ask the Minister of Transport whether political pressure has been put on his department for keeping the maintenance station for T.C.A. aircraft in Winnipeg rather than in Montreal, and, if so, can the minister tell us what sort of political pressure was exerted upon his department?

[Text]

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I think, sir, a question as long as that should be read and meditated about carefully before it is answered.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS****REQUEST FOR REPORT ON MEETING RESPECTING HOSPITALS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Is the minister in a position to report the results of his meeting yesterday with national officers of

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

various veterans associations with respect to the future of veterans hospitals in Canada?

**Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I think it would take me some considerable time to give an adequate answer to that question. To be as brief as possible I can say that, as the hon. member would expect, it was an excellent meeting, and I found a very general understanding and appreciation of the problems we are faced with in respect to these hospitals.

The real concern shown at the meeting was that if any such transfer should take place the veterans rights would be protected in such a way as to ensure nothing would be taken away. This was the major matter of concern placed before me. As I say, it was an excellent meeting, but I would need 15 or 20 minutes to do justice to a question of this kind.

[Later:]

**Mr. F. J. W. Fane (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. I should first like to ask the minister whether he would care to make any amendments to the answer given to a question I asked him yesterday, as recorded on page 934 of *Hansard*.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. May I point out to hon. members that it is now 4.15 and there are at least four more hon. members who wish to ask questions. Perhaps we could proceed with the business of the house.

**Mr. Fane:** Then, Mr. Speaker, I raise a question of privilege. My question of privilege is that in the answer the minister gave to my question yesterday he definitely misled this house and anybody who receives information as to what occurs in this house. I asked the minister:

—exactly when, and in what words, the standing committee on veterans affairs recommended that veterans hospitals should be taken over by other authorities?

The answer with which the minister provided me was:

The recommendation of the committee was that if and when any transfer should take place, veterans organizations be consulted.

I refer now, Mr. Speaker, to the report of the veterans affairs committee. This is to be found in the minutes of proceedings and evidence No. 13, of Tuesday, December 10, 1963. Recommendation No. 12 of that committee was as follows:

Your committee is aware that a point has been reached where a decision must be made regarding treatment services in both areas of responsibility and administration. Your committee recommends that fullest consultation be carried out with veterans organizations before any changes are made.