

to the Minister of Transport, based upon a press report appearing in to-day's *Ottawa Citizen*. Is it true that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has lifted the ban on Trans-Radio news which was proposed to become effective from July 1? In view of his earlier statement made on June 6—page 557 of *Hansard*—will the minister give the house detailed information as to the proof or bona fides furnished by Trans-Radio news officials to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, particularly as to its ownership, and the authenticity of its reports dated from London?

I sent notice of this question to the minister earlier in the day and he has informed me that he has not the information at the moment. Of course it is quite satisfactory to me if he has to postpone his reply.

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Transport): Perhaps I can give my hon. friend the information he desires. The board of governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation met in Ottawa yesterday. Attending the meeting were representatives of the Canadian Press and of the privately-owned broadcasting stations. A general policy was evolved which will mean that within a reasonably short time—the shortest possible time—sponsored news on the air will be a thing of the past. There are details to be worked out; I have asked a man in whom I think all hon. members of this house have a good deal of confidence, Mr. Walter Thompson, to look into all sides of the question on my behalf and to bring in a report, which I think will finalize the matter and evolve a policy more satisfactory to listeners in Canada. Whether in the meantime the present news services will be allowed to function I am not sure. I rather think they will, although I have no definite knowledge. It would perhaps be a mistake, for a matter of two or three weeks, to make any radical change in the existing situation. But I think I can say that within the next month there will be a new policy for news on the air, which I shall announce as soon as I can, and which I think will be recognized by all as an improvement on the present situation.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Will the announcement be made in this house?

Mr. HOWE: Sometimes these announcements get out before they reach me, but I assure my hon. friend that as soon as I receive it I will make the announcement in the house.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Any announcement of public policy on behalf of a government-owned institution should be made here first.

Mr. HOWE: I may be scooped by my news service.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

RATES PAYABLE BY ENLISTED MEN AND WOMEN TRAVELLING BY TRAIN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. FRASER (Peterborough West): I should like to ask the Acting Minister of National Defence (Mr. Power) if anything is being done to fix special and reasonable rates for enlisted men and women travelling by train. I ask this question because last week-end men travelling from Ottawa to Peterborough on regular vouchers had to pay \$5.50. The regular coach fare is \$6.90, but there was a special excursion rate of \$4.60, and I know that some of the men paid \$5.50 and found out about the lower rate later. In other words soldiers had to pay 90 cents more than civilians. I honestly believe something should be done—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Hon. C. G. POWER (Acting Minister of National Defence): I shall be glad to make inquiries. I cannot answer the question offhand.

THE BUDGET

DEBATE ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed from Thursday, June 27, consideration of the motion of Hon. J. L. Ralston (Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means.

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): In my first words this afternoon I should like to join in the regret that all must feel following the announcement by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) of the loss of one of our Canadian destroyers, the *Fraser*. Those of us from British Columbia have taken perhaps more interest than other hon. members in this destroyer, because, if I am not mistaken, this destroyer was first welcomed to Canada at the port of New Westminster, and I believe most of the personnel come from British Columbia. We are inclined to be more conscious of the other branches of the service and to forget at times that great, silent service, the navy. Some of the boys returned at Christmas time on leave, and the stories they told of their work in the north Atlantic were very thrilling indeed. They spent many days at sea; some had their fingers and toes frozen; many times they encountered a temperature of 40 degrees below zero, with a howling gale. So I cannot but grieve this afternoon at the loss of this destroyer.

With other members on the government side I have refrained from making speeches