

Inquiries of the Ministry

because I do not think the two things are necessarily related. One is strictly a financial mechanism which really comes under the jurisdiction of my colleague the Minister of Finance. It might easily be that he would say that was the best method of financing at some stage. I have already given the assurance that every opportunity for debate will be given before any decision is made public in respect of the latter part of the question.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Meantime are we to be led along the garden path?

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance whether, in view of the length of time involved in making adequate plans to provide an adequate air service in the future, he would press for a clarification concerning the future of Air Canada, so that the country will be assured of a reasonable air service.

Mr. Benson: I believe adequate future planning is being carried out by Air Canada. The matter of financing future aircraft acquisitions, and so on, in respect of Air Canada is a matter for discussion between the officials of Air Canada and the Department of Finance. The best method of financing and the acquisition of aircraft will be determined after looking at the pros and cons of various alternatives.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, could the Prime Minister give the house an assurance that Air Canada, that great national utility, if I might call it such, will not be sacrificed in order to confirm or conform with the expressed wishes of the Minister without Portfolio from Manitoba who during the election campaign, stated that Canada should dispose of it?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I have asked a question. I cannot understand why the Prime Minister, who is usually very fast in trying to answer questions, would not take advantage of the opportunity to assure the people of Canada that this is not going to be sacrificed.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South.

[Mr. Hellyer.]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**MONOPOLISTIC CONTROL OF SERVICE STATIONS**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs arising out of the report of a three year study in Alberta complaining about the monopolistic control of service stations by large oil companies. Has the report been drawn to the attention of the minister, and will he consult with the provincial attorneys-general in respect of appropriate action under the Combines Investigation Act or the Corporations Act dealing with this field.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): At the present time all I have is reports about the report. We have sent a wire to Alberta asking for a copy of the report, and when it is received it will receive our very close attention and study.

[Translation]

AIRPORTS**QUEBEC—LOCATION OF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence.

Is it true that his department has refused to cede to the Department of Transport the land that it owns in Farnham, for the construction of the future international airport in that locality?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not think that the question as put is in order. The hon. member is asking the minister to confirm or deny a news item and, for that reason, the question cannot be allowed.

[English]

OLD AGE SECURITY**REQUEST FOR PENSION INCREASE TO EQUAL COST OF LIVING INCREASE**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address this question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. As the cost of living has increased by 8½ per cent during the two years since old age pensions were tied to the cost of living, and since pensions have been raised by only 4 per cent during the same period is the government reconsidering the adequacy of the correction formula with a view to making sure that the old age pension increases at