

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would draw to the attention of the hon. member the consideration whether the question he wishes to ask is urgent in that it is necessary to have the information immediately. There will be opportunity to get it at a later date and, as a matter of fact, I suggest that the hon. member place his question on the order paper.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I also have a question for the Prime Minister. It deals with the matter of our centenary activities. I wonder whether the attention of the Prime Minister has been drawn to an article in this morning's *Globe and Mail* reiterating statements by a Mr. Robbins L. Elliott, chairman of the program research committee of the Canadian centenary council, to the effect that it is not possible to proceed with its plans until the necessary machinery has been established by government, and making the accusation that the federal government is lagging on its plans for our celebration. If so, would the Prime Minister care to comment on that matter?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that the observation I made with regard to the previous question on this general subject would apply also to this question.

Mr. Howard: That I put the question on the order paper?

An hon. Member: That is right.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CUBA—WITHDRAWAL OF CANADIAN
COMMERCIAL COUNSELLOR**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): I wish to ask a question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Are we to conclude that the withdrawal of the Canadian commercial counsellor in Cuba means a change at least in some aspects of our relationships with Cuba? In that event, would this situation be due to representations made by the United States to Canada and her NATO partners?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there has been no change in the government's policy toward Cuba. In recent months there has been a great falling off in the amount of goods purchased from Canada by Cuba presumably because of the difficulty in obtaining foreign exchange. It was felt that there is no longer any necessity to have this particular official stationed in Havana.

AIRPORTS**LAKEHEAD—INQUIRY AS TO PROPOSED EXPANSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William): I wish

to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. I am sorry that I did not furnish him with notice. Can the minister indicate to the house whether a start on the proposed expansion of the lakehead airport will be made this fall?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I shall be obliged to check with the department.

(Translation):

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN PERMISSIBLE
EARNINGS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. P. Antoine Belanger (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Could he tell us if the government is considering improving the Unemployment Insurance Act in such a way as to increase the income which those who are entitled to the benefits may earn?

(Text):

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Not at the present time, Mr. Speaker. We are awaiting the report of the Gill commission. When that report is in the hands of the government careful study will have to be given to it.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask a supplementary question. Can the Minister of Labour tell us if it is not a fact that the chairman has indicated he hopes to have a report in time to permit the government to give consideration to this matter before Christmas?

Mr. Starr: I think I answered a question directed to me a few days ago about when we expect to receive a report.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS**NEWFOUNDLAND-LABRADOR—EDUCATION OF
INDIANS AND ESKIMOS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. R. Granger (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Has the government any plans to give the same measure of financial support to the education and welfare of the Indians and Eskimos of Newfoundland-Labrador that is given in other parts of Canada?

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): In view of the fact that this question involves the Department of Citizenship and Immigration as well as my department, I think the hon. member would get a more helpful answer if he were to place the question on the order paper.