

Inquiries of the Ministry

potential hazard from aircraft operations. My department has arranged with the Department of Transport to advise all pilots operating in the areas of existing sanctuaries in the eastern part of the Northwest Territories of the location of those sanctuaries. As new sanctuaries are created, similar information will be forwarded to the Department of Transport.

CROP INSURANCE

REFERENCE TO STATEMENT BY PROVINCIAL MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Will the minister comment on a reported statement made by the minister of agriculture of Saskatchewan, as found in the *Leader-Post* of March 25, that the federal government has agreed to amendments to the Crop Insurance Act which would make it possible for farmers to participate in an area where less than 25 per cent of the farmers are involved?

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member was kind enough to send me a copy of his question before the house opened. The federal Crop Insurance Act does not specify that an area must have at least 25 per cent of the farmers participating in the scheme. I have seen the press report to which the hon. member makes reference and it would appear that the Saskatchewan minister of agriculture was speaking of amendments to the province's crop insurance act.

I have been in touch with the minister of agriculture in Saskatchewan and have written him to the effect that we had in mind something along the line of the 25 per cent coverage which the provincial act in Saskatchewan originally provided. However, in view of the fact that the Saskatchewan government is undertaking a pilot operation this year, I indicated that I would recommend to my colleagues that a percentage less than 25 per cent for a pilot operation should be agreed upon for one year.

Mr. Korchinski: I should like to ask a supplementary question. Would the minister indicate what percentage he has in mind?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): No, Mr. Speaker; I have no particular percentage in mind.

TRANSPORT

METROPOLITAN TORONTO—REPORTED REQUEST FOR SUBWAY LOAN

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public [Mr. Dinsdale.]

Works. Now that the cabinet has had a chance to meet following the Prime Minister's return to Canada, is the minister in a position to say whether or not a federal loan will be made to the corporation of metropolitan Toronto to assist the corporation in the speeding up of the construction of the east-west subway?

Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. member for Trinity, may I say that the asking of that same question is becoming a little monotonous. This is a matter of government policy which involves more than Toronto and the question will be answered by the Prime Minister in due course. I feel presumptuous even trying to answer a question of this sort addressed to me.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, even though it may seem monotonous to the minister, may I ask the same question but directed toward the proposed subway for the city of Montreal?

Mr. Fulton: It should get the same answer.

Mr. Chevrier: May I ask the minister if he will give an answer?

Mr. Walker: I thought I had answered that question in my previous answer.

Mr. Hellyer: I should like to put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister say when he will be in a position to deal with these matters, other than in due course?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to adopt the answer that the hon. gentleman used time after time during his tenure of office. I simply say, as the Minister of Public Works has said, that when the government is in a position to announce a policy in this regard it will be announced.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LAOS—INQUIRY AS TO CURRENT SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister give the house any information on the situation in Laos?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, after a week end of intense activity, including a meeting between Prime Minister Macmillan and President Kennedy in Florida, there are indications that the prospects for a negotiated settlement of the Laotian problem have improved. My understanding is that no formal reply to the