

Inquiries of the Ministry

Can he tell the house what steps his department intends to take to prevent the impending slowdown strike of 90 per cent of the letter carriers who are refused the salary boost they have requested?

Hon. Azellus Denis (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I believe this question is within the province of my colleague the Minister of Finance, who will announce in due time the salary increases for the civil service employees, including the letter carriers.

Mr. Paul: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. What stand does the Postmaster General intend to take personally to prevent this strike?

Mr. Denis: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that any slowdown will occur, because this government will take the necessary steps before it starts.

(Text):

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

SUMMERSIDE, P.E.I.—INQUIRY AS TO
EXTENSION OF RUNWAYS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Queens): I have a brief question I should like to address to the Minister of National Defence, but in his absence perhaps the associate minister would take it as notice. In the light of statements made by the A.O.C. of the maritime command of the R.C.A.F. recently at a press conference, that there was an urgent need to rebuild two runways at the R.C.A.F. station at Summerside for operational reasons, is it the intention of the government to continue that program which was well under way under the previous government?

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Associate Minister of National Defence): I will take that question as notice.

(Translation):

TRANSPORT

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER—USE OF FRENCH IN
PILOTAGE MANOEUVRES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I put a question to the Minister of Justice when he was Acting Prime Minister, concerning a request by the St. Lawrence seaway authority asking that the French language be banned in pilotage manoeuvring. I would be most happy if the minister could supply me with an answer.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to answering that question although it was declared

out of order yesterday. It is normally the Minister of Transport who deals with such questions, but since it was directed to me during the absence of the Prime Minister, I reply to the hon. member that:

1. The St. Lawrence seaway authority never asked or sent a request asking that the French language be banned in pilotage manoeuvring.

2. A verbal inquiry from lawyers acting for organizations or private customers reveals that Mr. R. J. Burnside did not make the statement attributed to him. Confirmation will be made by the minutes of his evidence as soon as they reach the St. Lawrence seaway authority.

(Text):

SHIPPING

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER—STATEMENT AS TO
WINTER NAVIGATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): I think, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport is anxious to reply to a question of mine about winter navigation.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): On June 26, as appears on page 1608 of *Hansard*, the hon. member for Saint John-Albert asked a question concerning winter navigation on the St. Lawrence river. I might answer that the growth of winter navigation on the St. Lawrence river to which the hon. member refers is very small in amount and is not directly assisted by departmental ice-breakers which may be working in the river for other purposes. These purposes are of long standing, and involve protection of shore property from flooding.

Such commercial traffic as there is has been pioneered by commercial interests and, while any such changes in trading patterns may call for adjustments in the total economy, it is not the intention of this government to initiate action for the improvement of conditions in one area which would have significant adverse effects on other parts of the country. The St. Lawrence seaway authority is not giving consideration to the matter of all-winter use of the seaway.

As to the other part of the question concerning United States congressional action on this matter, I have had no official notice in that connection and have no knowledge of it, other than the reference contained in the newspaper article.

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): May I ask a supplementary question. I should like to ask the minister whether, in effect, that statement informs us that the commercial business that has developed into Quebec and Montreal would have been possible without the ice-breaker?