

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Well, the hon. member has now taken the proper course, and if he wishes to pursue the matter I shall be glad to hear him.

Mr. Pearson: Go ahead.

(Translation):

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, there had to be among the Liberal members a wise guy to mention the Prime Minister's ability to speak French. I should like to make sure, first, whether the hon. member speaks French correctly himself.

Mr. Fortin: That is easy—he knows neither French nor English.

[Later:]

USE OF TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT PLANES FOR ELECTION PURPOSES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Alexis Caron (Hull): May I ask the Minister of Transport a question? Could he tell us whether, since he took over the department, any person or organization has undertaken to pay or indeed has paid for the use of government planes for any purpose? If so, which persons or organizations?

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: I think another question for the order paper is indicated.

PENITENTIARIES

BRITISH COLUMBIA—CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING TO HOUSE CONVICTED DOUKHOBORS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works, and ask whether plans have been completed, tenders called and contracts let for the construction of a building to confine Doukhobors in the Agassiz area, convicted under the Criminal Code?

Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works): I would be very happy to accept this question as notice.

[Later:]

Mr. Winch: Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice—may I say that I am glad the Minister of Public Works is here—or in the minister's absence could I direct my question to the Acting Minister of Justice or the parliamentary secretary. Could I ask on what basis, in view of the emergency, an award has been made for the construction of the Doukhobor restraining building in the area of Agassiz,

not through the Department of Public Works on contract but by a t.m. plus profit contract through the department.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think questions about contracts, and so on, might very well go on the order paper rather than taking up the time of the house.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

BELLECHASSE CONSTITUENCY—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON INVESTIGATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Guy Rouleau (Dollard): I should like to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Justice. Can the acting minister give us a report about the inquiry of the R.C.M.P. in the constituency of Bellechasse, which was announced by the Secretary of State on March 26 as having top priority?

Hon. W. J. Browne (Acting Minister of Justice): I shall take that question as notice.

AIR TRANSPORT

ADDITIONAL TRANSCONTINENTAL SERVICE BY C.P.A.

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister and ask him whether the government intends to grant an additional transcontinental air service to C.P.A., as reported in Saturday's edition of the *Financial Post*?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Whenever any decision is made with regard to such a matter it will be brought to the attention of the house. It will not be announced through the medium of speculative stories in any newspaper.

Mr. Chevrier: As a supplementary question to the Prime Minister, has an application been made to the cabinet under the Aeronautics Act for the purpose I have mentioned, namely to give additional transcontinental air services to C.P.A.?

Mr. Diefenbaker: The answer is no.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

ANNUAL HOLIDAYS FOR GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES REPRESENTATIVES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erhart Regier (Burnaby-Coquitlam): I should like to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Labour, or to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that many people working on a commission basis now receive annual holidays with pay, is the minister in a position to