

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would venture to say within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the problems concerning the construction of the Northumberland strait crossing. The Prime Minister indicated two weeks ago that there was some difficulty in arriving at a decision that he had promised the premier of Prince Edward Island he would make almost one month ago. Could he indicate to the house the nature of the difficulties; because we may be able to give him assistance.

Mr. Trudeau: Money.

BROADCASTING**INQUIRY AS TO REQUEST FOR TAPES OF NEWS BROADCASTS**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): With your permission, Mr. Speaker, while I am on my feet may I deal with a question that was raised by the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) yesterday, who wanted to know whether any member of the task force on government information services had requested the Canadian Radio-Television Commission to ask Canadian radio stations to provide tapes of their news broadcasts to the commission. I replied that I would inquire. The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

AGRICULTURE**REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR NOVA SCOTIA APPLE GROWERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Since almost three months have elapsed since the delegation from Nova Scotia presented to the minister a brief on the problems of our apple industry, when will the government make a statement on what assistance it is prepared to give this hard pressed industry?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman knows that for the last three years, and slightly more than that, the federal government has resisted entering into any ad hoc assistance arrangements with the provinces. I have explained the reasons for that. When the brief was first presented to the department the apple market was not as good as it is now. The market in

[Mr. McQuaid.]

Canada for fresh and processed apples has firmed considerably. That does not resolve the problem arising from the drought in the area, and the matter is still under active consideration. Yet I should not like to hold out any great hope that we will substitute an ad hoc assistance program for the crop insurance program we have offered to all provinces.

Mr. Nowlan: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. From the minister's answer I suppose one could take it that there will be no announcement of government aid at the annual meeting of the apple growers?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think that question is argumentative.

Mr. Nowlan: May I rephrase the question, Mr. Speaker. Am I to gather from the minister's statement that there is to be no announcement with regard to government aid during the annual meeting of the apple growers?

Mr. Olson: That is a wrong assumption. We undertook to give very serious consideration to the representations that were made and to take into account the market and the harvest with respect to this crop. That has been done and is continuing to be done.

AIRPORTS**TORONTO—PROTESTS AGAINST EXPANSION OF FACILITIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hyliard Chappell (Peel South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the announced rejection of the proposal to expand the Toronto-Malton airport by all municipalities affected by the flightways, will the minister agree not to proceed as proposed and cause studies of other sites to be made?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I hope to be able to review all available data within a few days. Once I have had a chance to do that I will be in a position to make a recommendation to the government.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**DATE OF PAYMENT OF RETROACTIVE PAY INCREASES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. Can he now give a firmer assurance than he could