

Inquiries of the Ministry

preparing a memorandum to cabinet indicating the parts of the report I feel are within the jurisdiction of the federal government and on which early action should be taken.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): A supplementary question to the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker. Would that include removal of the sales tax on building materials?

[Translation]

AIR TRANSPORT**AMALGAMATION OF AIR CANADA AND CANADIAN PACIFIC AIRLINES**

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

Can he tell us whether negotiations have been undertaken between Air Canada and the Canadian Pacific Airlines for the possible amalgamation of those two airlines?

Mr. Speaker: I think that this question was asked last week, but the minister could perhaps answer it just the same.

[English]

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**VISIT TO CANADA OF PRESIDENT NIXON AND PRIME MINISTER WILSON**

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): I would like to address a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the forthcoming visit of President Nixon to Europe, for the purpose of consultations with members of the Atlantic alliance, and in view of the wide range of subjects of mutual interest to Canada and the United States, will the Prime Minister say whether discussions are under way with a view to arranging an early visit by the President to Canada?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The subject has been raised, Mr. Speaker, between the government of the United States and the Canadian government, but there is nothing precise to report.

Mr. MacLean: A supplementary question. In view of reports that Prime Minister Wilson of the United Kingdom may be visiting Washington, will the Prime Minister say whether the government is considering extending an

[Mr. Hellyer.]

invitation to visit Canada during his trip to North America?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am considering that and, depending on the dates and on the eventuality of the trip itself, it would be something that would lead me hopefully to arrange a visit to Canada by Prime Minister Wilson, either at that time or at some other time.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If the Prime Minister does in fact arrange discussions with the President of the United States regarding Canada's position in respect to NATO, will the Postmaster General and the Minister of National Defence accompany the Prime Minister, so that Canada's position can be placed before the President in all its clarity and simplicity?

DRUGS**LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE REPAYMENT OF OVERCHARGES**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. I put it to the right hon. gentleman because I believe it concerns a matter of government policy. In view of reports that a number of drug firms in the United States are making payments of \$120 million to cover overcharges that had resulted in excess profits, is the government of Canada studying this matter and considering any legislation that may be necessary, so that any similar overcharges in Canada might be repaid?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker. I will read it in *Hansard*.

THE SENATE**CONSULTATION WITH SENATORS RESPECTING REFORM MEASURES**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister in connection with the projected suggestions of Senate reform, which we have had ever since the days of Mackenzie King.

Mr. McIlraith: He left before doing that.

Mr. Diefenbaker: He did make a reform. He substituted live Grits for dead Tories. I ask the Prime Minister whether or not, in view of the massive nature of the changes, there has been any consultation with members of the Senate, and in particular whether