

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

helpfulness and a brotherhood relationship, without regard to race or colour, that does much to maintain good relations and bring about good citizenship.

## TRADE

CUBA—REPORTED DISCUSSION IN NATO COUNCIL

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. E. J. Broome (Vancouver South):** I have a question for the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister confirm whether or not the government of the United States is now bringing the matter of trade with Cuba before the council of NATO?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** I saw some reference to that in the press, but the information I have received is that no such matter has been brought before the council of NATO, by the United States or otherwise.

## SHIPPING

NORTH SYDNEY—INQUIRY AS TO ICE  
BREAKING SERVICES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware that the Canadian National Railway Company has diverted all its ships with the exception of the *William Carson* from the port of North Sydney, supposedly on account of ice conditions, thereby creating economic difficulties for the stevedores of that port? Would the minister advise the house what icebreaking facilities have been provided to keep the port of North Sydney open during the winter months? Would he further advise the house whether any icebreakers have been diverted from the area during the past two weeks and, if not, tell us why it has not been possible to keep this port open to shipping?

**Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport):** I shall be pleased to make a close inquiry into the situation. I shall report tomorrow and give as full an explanation as possible to show my hon. friend and the house that the icebreaker service of the department is doing its utmost to meet the difficult weather situation in that area of the gulf.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

BERLIN—REPORTED INTERFERENCE WITH  
AIR TRAFFIC

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Arthur Smith (Calgary South):** I wonder if I could ask the Prime Minister whether he would be good enough to comment on the  
[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

most recent reports of interference with air traffic in the Berlin air corridors.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** I had rather expected a question on that subject.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** It is just a case, again, of government members having to take over the responsibilities of members of the opposition.

Hon. members will have seen newspaper reports about attempts made by the U.S.S.R. to reserve for its exclusive use for a limited period part of the three air corridors which lead from West Germany to West Berlin. On February 8, 9, and 12 the Soviet representative at the Berlin air safety centre was informed by his three western colleagues that such an unprecedented request could not be met, that western aircraft would continue to fly in accordance with established procedures, and that the Soviet authorities would be held fully responsible for flight safety.

On February 14 Soviet aircraft threatened the safety of western aircraft flying in the Berlin corridors in accordance with the flight rules set out in post-war agreements reached with the Soviet union. The three western powers protested to the Soviet union on February 15 about the Soviet attempts to "force changes in the established procedures" in the three air corridors to West Berlin. The Soviet union has rejected the British, United States and French notes of protest. Hon. members may be assured that Canada, in close consultation with the three western occupying powers in Berlin and our other NATO allies, is keeping a careful watch on the dangerous situation the Soviet union has attempted to create in such an irresponsible fashion.

The western occupying powers had to take a firm line on these Soviet requests, because to do otherwise would compromise the western right of free access to Berlin.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SENATE REFORM—INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION  
OF LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** I wonder if I could direct a question to the Prime Minister. I have an objective interest only in this. I should like to ask when the house might expect that the measure relating to the Senate will be introduced.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** We have now reached the concluding days of the debate on the speech from the throne, and when that has been dealt with the hon. gentleman's curiosity will be satisfied.