

Inquiries of the Ministry

like to say a few words about the subsequent consideration of the bill by the house.

Hon. members know that after the bill has been read for the first time, it will take its place at the bottom of a long list of public bills on the order paper. Consequently, it is unlikely that the house will be able to consider it during the present session.

As this legislation is of some importance to the management of the two savings banks concerned, I intend to ask, when public bills are called at five o'clock, that the house unanimously agree to give priority to this bill.

Meanwhile, I shall now ask that the bill be read for the first time.

[Text]

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members have heard the suggestion made by the hon. member for Restigouche-Madawaska. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: When shall said bill be read the second time. Later this day.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

PENHOLD, ALTA.—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF CLOSING OF AIR BASE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence, and ask whether he will bring the house up to date on any investigation which is taking place with respect to the Penhold air base and as to any probability of the order being altered which was made earlier to the effect that jet training would not be permitted at that base.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): I have nothing new to add. My colleague the Minister of Transport is carrying out a careful review of air safety requirements in respect of all air training bases. No conclusions have been reached so far, I suspect; consequently there has been no change in the decision announced with respect to Penhold.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Does the hon. gentleman still take the stand that the safety regulations which, he said, forbade the use of this base, might be altered so as to permit the change in that decision?

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, all I said was that safety regulations made it impossible to use the Penhold base for ab initio jet flying training.

[Mr. Dube.]

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO CRASH OF CF-100 PLANE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I wish to put to the Minister of National Defence. Having regard to the fact that a member of the crew was a native of my home town, and indeed a personal acquaintance, can the minister report to the house on the crash of the CF-100 jet aircraft near St. Hubert air base yesterday, and if a full investigation into the causes will be carried out.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, at 1300 hours local time on November 28 an R.C.A.F. CF-100 crashed one mile from the end of the runway while on final approach at R.C.A.F. station St. Hubert. The pilot, Flying Officer D. B. MacKenzie, and the navigator, Flight Lieutenant W. C. Henderson, were both killed. The reason for the accident is not known at this time, but a full investigation is being held.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REPORTED EXISTENCE OF SPY RING WITHIN DEPARTMENT

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) asked me whether I was in a position to confirm or deny the existence of a spy ring within my department, as stated in an Ottawa newspaper, the *South End News*.

To give a specific reply to the hon. member's question, I emphatically deny that there could be a Russian spy ring within the Department of External Affairs. The departmental officials are constantly in touch with the R.C.M.P. with regard to all matters relating to the security of the department, and there is no actual fact to confirm such an allegation.

[Text]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

NATO—USE OF ATOMIC WEAPONS TO DETER ATTACKS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence based on a statement he made in a speech at the Empire club in Toronto yesterday. He was referring to the NATO allies and the sentence reads as follows:

They prefer to deter both nuclear and non-nuclear attack by the threatened immediate use of