

now occupies. I am sure the hon. lady could give the assurance without any impropriety.

Mr. Speaker: Even if she could, I think it is not within the practice of the house for a member to comment on the willingness or unwillingness of a minister to answer a question.

AIR TRANSPORT

CANADIAN PACIFIC AIR LINES—SERVICE BETWEEN VANCOUVER AND PRINCE RUPERT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. I hope the notice reached him in sufficient time. Have any representations been made recently by the city of Prince Rupert or any other similarly interested groups protesting the announced action of Canadian Pacific Air Lines not to provide direct flights between Vancouver and Prince Rupert? If so, is any action contemplated to ensure that Prince Rupert receives such a direct air service?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): I want to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his intention to ask this question. I received the notice just before coming into the house and did not have an opportunity to check with the air transport board. I will do so and report to the hon. member tomorrow.

PUBLIC SERVICE

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION—INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Prime Minister can inform the house when a chairman of the civil service commission is likely to be appointed.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, he is likely to be appointed at any time.

GRAIN

WHEAT—INTERIM PAYMENT ON 1957-58 CROP

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce arising out of the urgent need to bolster prairie farm income. Can the minister say when the long overdue interim payment on the 1957-58 wheat crop is likely to be announced?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, it is likely to be announced at any time.

St. Lawrence Seaway Authority Act

Mr. Argue: In view of this most indefinite and unsatisfactory answer, can the minister inform the house whether the wheat board's 1957-58 account has now been closed out?

Mr. Churchill: The accounts with regard to wheat, oats and barley for 1957-58 are all in very good shape. I can assure the hon. member that there will be an interim payment and that it will be made in due course.

Mr. Argue: Would the minister answer my question with respect to whether the account has been closed out so that payment may be made forthwith?

Mr. Churchill: I just informed the hon. member that the accounts with regard to wheat, oats and barley are all in good shape. They have not yet been made final, but there will be an interim payment on wheat as in other years. The general wheat picture continues to be good, as it was last year.

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AUTHORITY ACT

AMENDMENT TO INCREASE LIMIT ON AMOUNT TO BE BORROWED

The house resumed, from Wednesday, February 18, consideration in committee of the following resolution—Mr. Hees—Mr. Rea in the chair:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority Act to provide that the authority, with the approval of the governor in council, may from time to time borrow money from Her Majesty or otherwise to an aggregate that shall not at any time exceed \$335 million in lieu of \$300 million which it is already authorized to borrow by section 13 of the act.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, before I deal with the resolution proper perhaps I might be allowed to digress for a moment to deal with a matter which, while perhaps not strictly germane to the resolution, is none the less related substantially to it. I, of course, should like to refer to the visit which Her Majesty the Queen and the President of the United States are going to make to celebrate the opening of the St. Lawrence seaway on June 26 of this year. I should like to say a word about the origin of that matter and how it came about.

Some time in 1956, or early 1957, I believe, the St. Lawrence seaway authority invited His Excellency the Governor General to make a tour of the navigational facilities and the works of the seaway extending from the Montreal area to the international section. During the course of the tour His Excellency said to me, "What would you think if Her Majesty the Queen were invited to open the facilities of the St. Lawrence seaway?" I of course immediately said that I thought the