

Inquiries of the Ministry

letter from Ontario to reach the United Kingdom? I have had complaints from the United Kingdom in regard to this matter, and I wonder why there should be this delay.

Mr. T. A. M. Kirk (Parliamentary Assistant to the Postmaster General): Will the hon. gentleman be kind enough to produce the cover to see whether or not the letter was mailed on the day it was supposed to have been mailed.

Mr. Fraser (Peterborough): It was mailed on February 8 and delivered there on March 5.

Mr. Kirk (Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare): Will the hon. gentleman be kind enough to let me have the cover so that the department can look into the matter.

AIRPORTS**MALTON—INQUIRY AS TO EXTENT OF FIRE DAMAGE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Pallett (Peel): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Defence Production if he has any information that he can give to the house today as to the cause and the effect of the fire which took place yesterday at Malton?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Defence Production): Mr. Speaker, I have not received a detailed report on the results of the fire. I do not know what was the cause of the fire. We lost four aircraft, a considerable amount of test equipment and a hangar. However I am told that the loss will not delay the new program in hand, although it will delay some adjusting work on planes presently being produced.

Mr. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): I should like to ask the Minister of Defence Production a supplementary question. Were any of the planes that were lost the property of the crown in the right of Canada or had they been secured with funds advanced by the government to A. V. Roe Canada Limited?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I may say that the planes belonged to the crown. Certain of the test equipment was also the property of the crown and other of the test equipment was the property of Avro. The Avro equipment was insured, but the crown property, following the normal practice, was not insured. I had a quick estimate made of whether the department would have been ahead had we made a practice of insuring crown property and I find that that would not have been the case, that we have saved a great deal of money through the policy of government carrying its own insurance on its own property.

[Mr. Fraser (Peterborough).]

Mr. Harkness: Did the government adopt any fire protection methods to safeguard that equipment when it was not insured?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): We take all reasonable precautions. That fact may be the reason why this is the first serious fire we have had in the history of the department. I suggest that in the end lightning strikes almost everywhere.

Mr. John B. Hamilton (York West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Defence Production a supplementary question arising out of the question asked by the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Pallett). Can the minister inform the house if the fire damage at Malton will have any effect upon the employment situation at the A. V. Roe plant?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The A. V. Roe company is a privately-owned company which has its own employment program. So far as I am aware the fire should have no serious impact on employment at that plant.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**INQUIRY COMMISSION INTO RELATIONS WITH R. F. WELCH LIMITED**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour arising out of the answer he gave today to a question of mine on the order paper? Can he indicate why the request for an inquiry commission to inquire into the relations between the Canadian National Railways and the R. F. Welch company is not being considered?

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour): The reason the request has not been favourably considered is that my department feels the complaints made in that request are not such as could properly be handled under the federal Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act.

Mr. Knowles: Has the minister suggested at any time to those who made the request any alternative way of dealing with the matter?

Mr. Gregg: Yes, but it would take me too long to go into it at this particular time.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**TELEVISION PROGRAM "SCOPE"—REFERENCE TO PRODUCT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Revenue if he has