

Inquiries of the Ministry

purpose of receiving representations from interested parties and dates for the filing of proposals and submissions.

No written submissions should be made to the board until dates of public sittings are announced and directions are given on the filing of proposals and briefs.

In the meantime, all who may desire to receive further announcements regarding reference No. 131—

That is the present reference. I continue:

—and who are not already on the board's mailing list should communicate with the undersigned.

I hope that course will be followed by all interested persons and organizations.

As to the date of the public hearings, I cannot be at all specific in that regard. The board already has a substantial volume of work on hand, but if parliament is willing to pass the measure of which notice now stands on the order paper—the bill to amend the Tariff Board Act to enlarge the board so that it may begin to sit in two panels simultaneously instead of one—this will be of very great assistance to the board in expediting the commencement of the hearings on reference No. 131.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION**CANADA-U.S.—INQUIRY AS TO REPORTED AIRPLANE EXCHANGE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Has his attention been called to a statement in the press to the effect that the Canadian government plans to push through a proposal whereby the United States will purchase 32 CL-44 transport planes from Canadair Limited in exchange for the Canadian purchase of 66 United States Voodoo jet interceptors for the R.C.A.F.? Has he any comment to make on that statement?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen this particular press report, and I have no comment on it.

[Later:]

Mr. Chevrier: Now that the Minister of National Defence has had an opportunity to look at the press release which I referred to in my earlier question, I wonder whether he would care to comment on the statement of the proposed exchange of the CL-44 and the Voodoo jet interceptor?

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is well aware of the fact that it has never been the practice in this house to comment on speculative articles in the press.

Mr. Chevrier: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Have the officers of the Minister of Defence Production been in contact

[Mr. Fleming (Eglinton).]

with the United States authorities relating to an exchange between Canada and the United States of the Canadair CL-44 transport plane on the one hand and the Voodoo interceptor on the other?

Hon. Raymond O'Hurley (Minister of Defence Production): Not recently, Mr. Speaker.

TRADE**IMPORTATION OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FROM CUBA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce arising out of an article in today's *Globe and Mail*, in which the secretary of the fruit and vegetable growers' association of Ontario is reported to have said that the biggest club hanging over the market now is shipments starting to pour in from Cuba, and that the association feels that the Cuban goods are a government subsidized deal. Can the minister inform the house in what form the Cuban deal has been subsidized by the Canadian government?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, because of the talking which was going on in the house I had a great deal of difficulty in understanding the hon. member's question. Perhaps I might take it as notice and answer tomorrow.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Arthur Smith (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce whether, following his conversations with the United States administration yesterday, he is able to make any report to the house on those conversations; and perhaps at the same time he might indicate, if he can, whether the government is prepared to announce a national oil policy for Canada.

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, as the house knows, my colleague the Minister of Finance and I visited Washington and had a very full and useful discussion with four members of the new administration; the secretary of commerce, Mr. Hodges; the secretary of the treasury, Mr. Dillon; the secretary of the interior, Mr. Udall and the under secretary of state for commercial affairs, Mr. Ball. The discussion ranged over a variety of subjects, including oil and other matters of interest to both governments.