

Inquiries of the Ministry

REQUEST FOR TASK FORCE REPORT

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, this question really relates to a question asked a few moments ago of the Minister of Agriculture. It has to do with the task force on agriculture. I should like to know when the task force might be reporting to the government.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the task force expects to report before the end of this year.

AIRPORTS

CHARLOTTETOWN—INQUIRY AS TO EXTENSION OF TERMINAL

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Transport, who in his last reply to a question of mine demonstrated his capacity to get to the bottom of things. Can he advise whether, as a result of his upgrading, progress is being made on the provision of new facilities at the Charlottetown airport, where there is a unique situation.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is anything new, in addition to what I reported a few days ago. An examination is being made of the airport facilities to see what is there, but that examination is not completed.

INDUSTRY

AUTOMOBILES—DISCUSSION WITH TRADE UNIONS ON PACT EXTENSION—DISPARITY IN PRICES

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, this question is for the genial Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. A few days ago I asked the minister a question concerning an extension of the area of the auto pact. I asked him whether he had discussed with the affected trade unions the specific proposals presented by the Canadian government, and he said he would look into the question.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pépin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we have received representations in respect of the auto pact in general but not on the question of broadening—I was going to say “broadbenting”—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

An hon. Member: I think you are bringing vaudeville back.

[Mr. Olson.]

Mr. Pepin: Jealousy on the part of the hon. member! The subject of broadening will be fully surveyed in the coming months. Representations will be received from everybody who wants to make a contribution and I hope the unions will make theirs.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

PROVISION RESPECTING STATUS AND USE—APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER, ETC.—REPORT STAGE

The house resumed, from Thursday, July 3, consideration of Bill C-120, respecting the status of the official languages of Canada, as reported (with amendments) from the Special Committee on the Official Languages Bill, and Motion No. 4, Mr. McQuaid, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Baldwin.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am rising because I had hoped the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) or the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) would be making some comment in respect of why the government apparently is rejecting the amendment now before us. Last night we received no indication concerning the reason the amendment of the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) was opposed by the government.

It seems to me there is a good deal to be said for the merit of the amendment moved by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin). It suggests that the statement to parliament made by the commissioner and any report that may be made by him under clause 33 should be referred to a committee of the House and also to a committee of the Senate. I would be interested in knowing what the government's view is. When the amendments were being discussed the other day I thought the minister was prepared to give some consideration to this. He has not indicated to the house at all why the government has now decided to reject these amendments.

● (12 noon)

When this legislation was first introduced the hon. member for York South, in pointing out the views of this party, indicated that we support the principle of the legislation. At that time the hon. member said something with which I wholly concur, that the value of this legislation will be largely dependent