

AIRPORTS

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONT.—STATEMENT AS TO COMPLETION OF BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, recently the hon. member for Algoma West asked me a question regarding the availability of the Sault Ste. Marie airport. It is expected that runways, taxiways and aircraft parking areas will be either completed or largely completed before the end of the present year, but a number of related services, including the instrument landing system, are not scheduled for installation before next year, and the program for provision of a terminal building is such that we cannot expect it to be ready before some time in 1961.

Everything possible will be done to expedite the various phases of this project. Much of the remaining work, however, is of a highly technical nature, and the actual opening of the airport this year is not physically possible. This timetable is comparable with the timetable for construction of completely new major airports, and is in accordance with the timetable which was set earlier for this project.

Mr. G. E. Nixon (Algoma West): Mr. Speaker, I did not hear what the minister said about the terminal building at Sault Ste. Marie. Have tenders been called for the terminal yet?

Mr. Hees: I am not sure whether tenders have actually been called, but we expect to open the new terminal next year.

HALIFAX—INQUIRY AS TO OPENING FOR REGULAR SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether he can tell us when the new Halifax airport is going to be opened for regular service.

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): I believe it is in operation at the present time. The actual official opening of the airport is set for September 10 next.

Mr. Pickersgill: Can the minister say whether regular commercial services are now using the new airport?

Mr. Hees: I will check on that. I expected they would be starting to do so about now, but I will find out exactly for the hon. member.

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Inquiries of the Ministry
TELEVISION

STATEMENT ON INQUIRY AS TO IDENTITY OF E. L. BUSHNELL

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Laurier asked me two questions regarding the recommendation made by the board of broadcast governors for the Ottawa television licence. The answer to both his questions is yes.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT—ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE TO SET UP MORE REALISTIC FIGURES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether the committee appointed about three months ago, I believe, to try to find better methods of statistical measurement of unemployment, has yet reported and, if not, when it is likely to do so.

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): No, Mr. Speaker, the committee has not reported yet. Two members of the committee were away for a period of time and no progress could be made until their return. I understand they are back now and that the matter is being considered further. I hope the report will be forthcoming shortly.

WINTER WORKS—INQUIRY AS TO EXPANSION OF PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask a supplementary question, in connection with which I hope the minister can report some progress. Can he say whether the government is now in a position to announce if it is prepared to expand its winter works program in order to make it more effective, and whether the government proposes in fact to embark on such a program next fall and winter?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): No decision on this matter has been made as yet.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): Does the minister expect to be in a position to make an announcement about this matter before his estimates are before the house?

Mr. Starr: I cannot commit myself to that.