

Inquiries of the Ministry

to those on the east coast in case any questions may arise that anyone might like to have put to the minister tomorrow. I shall refrain from making any comment beyond that.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**SUMMIT CONFERENCE—POSSIBILITY OF MEETING IN CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister, in respect of the invitation to the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom to hold the proposed summit conference meeting in Quebec, Canada, whether that invitation has also been extended to the governments of France and the Soviet union.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it got no further than I mentioned yesterday, although a formal invitation will be extended.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION**REPORTED PURCHASE OF SEAPLANES FROM UNITED STATES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Guy Rouleau (Dollard): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Defence Production. Can the minister confirm the announcement in today's press attributed to the director of the aircraft branch of his department that ten seaplanes are to be purchased from the United States for the R.C.A.F.?

Hon. Raymond O'Hurley (Minister of Defence Production): Mr. Speaker, we must all admit that there is a need for such an aircraft. Also there has been press speculation in support of the SA-16 Grumman for the R.C.A.F. No contract has been awarded to the Grumman Engineering Corporation by the Department of Defence Production. A meeting was held yesterday between the air industries and transport association of Canada and the Department of Defence Production at which meeting officials of the department were advising the Canadian aircraft industry on the procedure for obtaining contracts under production sharing. Discussions are going on to see what equivalent work can be done in Canada. No contract has been signed. No press release has been made by any officials of my department. Discussions are continuing.

(Translation):

Mr. Rouleau: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question? Is the hon. minister not aware of an article or report

published in the *Globe and Mail* of March 24, 1959, to the effect that an order had gone through for the purchase of Grumman aircraft from the United States? That news item is reported to have come from Mr. Thompson, director of the aircraft branch of the Department of Defence Production.

Mr. O'Hurley: Mr. Speaker, I must say that the director of the aircraft branch of my department has made no statement nor issued any press release to that effect. As I said just now, discussions are going on and what equivalent work will result for Canadian aircraft industries, if agreement is reached, is not yet known.

(Text):

[Later:]

Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Defence Production. I should like to ask the minister if he would advise the house as to whether the statement attributed by the *Toronto Globe and Mail* of today's date to Mr. Thompson, director of the aircraft branch of the Department of Defence Production is true. The statement is to the effect—

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member asking about the same statement to which reference was made earlier?

Mr. McIlraith: No, Mr. Speaker, I am asking about a statement that is in the same press release but which was not covered by the earlier question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The same press report, not release.

Mr. McIlraith: I stand corrected by the Prime Minister; it is indeed a press report. The statement attributed to the director is to the effect that the United States navy will not permit Canadian manufacturers to tender bids on naval defence contracts unless they are already producing items for the Canadian government. I should like to ask the minister if that is a correct statement of the position.

Mr. O'Hurley: Mr. Speaker, do I gather that the hon. member for Ottawa West would like information as to whether or not this statement was made by Mr. Thompson?

Mr. McIlraith: No, Mr. Speaker; I would like the minister to advise the house whether or not that is a correct statement of the position on this matter.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. McIlraith: This is a matter of policy affecting the minister's department, and it is clearly in order.