

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Argue: I wonder if the Prime Minister can say whether a report will be made to him following these important discussions, in any event?

Mr. Diefenbaker: There is continued communication, Mr. Speaker, and this government is kept fully advised as to those things which are happening which are of world interest and are known to other allied countries.

TRADE**OIL—REPORTED CANADIAN EXEMPTION FROM U.S. IMPORT RESTRICTIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce if he is not now in a position to say that there was no foundation in fact for the story suggested the day before yesterday, and referred to by the Leader of the Opposition by way of interrogation, to the effect that the United States government was going to relax its mandatory curbs on Canadian oil imports on the ground of national security? Is it not a fact that there is now found to be no foundation for the story whatsoever?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I can find no foundation in fact for the story.

SALT FISH—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON MARKETING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Tucker (Trinity-Conception): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is the minister in a position today to give the statement on salt fish marketing which he promised would be given before the Easter recess?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, this is a repetition of a question which was asked me on March 18, when I gave an assurance that I would make a statement on this matter before the house rises for the Easter recess.

Mr. Pickersgill: When does the minister propose to make it?

Mr. Fulton: Before the Easter recess.

AIR TRANSPORT**AUSTRALIA—STATEMENT RESPECTING RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, last evening the hon.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

member for Laurier directed a question to me which will be found on page 2050 of *Hansard*. The question was as follows:

I should like to know if arrangements have been made or are being made to renew the commonwealth air agreement. The Prime Minister will probably remember that the late secretary of state for external affairs on two occasions said that the air agreement had been extended first to February 6 and later to March 11.

On February 6 and February 17 the house was informed that Canada was pressing for a continuation of air services between Australia and Canada which were endangered by technical considerations concerning the frequency and capacity of flights. Full discussion of the present bilateral air agreement will take place in Australia early in April, and my hope is that the Australian government, like the Canadian government, desires to maintain and perhaps extend this tangible and mutually beneficial link between the two countries. Meanwhile authority has been granted to extend the temporary permits for weekly flights while discussions take place.

LIVESTOCK**ONTARIO—COMPENSATION FOR ANIMALS LOST THROUGH RABIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister noticed in this morning's press a statement emanating from Toronto with respect to compensation for animals lost through rabies? If so, would the minister evaluate these reports and perhaps give the house any further information he has concerning this matter?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I saw this statement, and I may say that we have been carrying on negotiations with the Ontario department of agriculture with regard to working out a joint dominion, provincial and municipal form of assistance to those who have lost animals as a result of rabies. The federal Department of Agriculture will share in a county-provincial program to indemnify Ontario farmers who suffer heavy livestock losses from such epidemics. Other provinces which may wish to enter into a similar scheme would, of course, be eligible.

Responsibility for initiating the plan will rest with the county authorities. They will value the animals, pay the owners, and then will be eligible for reimbursement to the extent of 80 per cent of the amount paid, which will be shared equally by the province and the federal government. In short, the