

Inquiries of the Ministry

that the department had no course open to it other than abandoning jet training at R.C.A.F. Penhold.

Mr. Thompson: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In the light of the remarks of the Minister of National Defence I would like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport or, in his absence, to his parliamentary secretary. This being the case, how can he explain the position of the Department of Transport regarding the conflict with normal air lane traffic having left it to this very late date when preparations had been made, as has been stated, by the Department of National Defence, and when it was a foregone conclusion that the development would be proceeded with forthwith?

Mr. Jean-Charles Cantin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): I will take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker, and bring it to the attention of the minister.

Mr. Woolliams: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am not at all sure that the last question asked by the hon. member for Red Deer was in order. It seems to me he was advancing an opinion rather than asking a question. If that is true, I do not think a supplementary question can be asked. If the hon. member has a direct question to put, he may put it.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): My question is supplementary to the one that was in order, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of National Defence. Is it not a fact that the minister reversed the position that he took about three weeks ago in reference to this matter because of a conflict with his colleague the Minister of Transport?

Mr. Hellyer: No, Mr. Speaker. As soon as the facts were before me the decision was obvious.

An hon. Member: So you made the first decision without having the facts.

[Later:]

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of National Defence. In the light of the views expressed today with regard to the Penhold site, could the hon. gentleman tell us if Saskatoon is being considered as a possible location for the R.C.A.F. jet training base?

Mr. Hellyer: The R.C.A.F. is looking at a number of sites in western Canada for its jet training. A number of other stations where this training could take place are

[Mr. Hellyer.]

presently available and no decision has yet been reached. As soon as a decision has been made we shall announce it.

Mr. S. J. Enns (Portage-Neepawa): Is one of those other sites the R.C.A.F. station at Macdonald?

Mr. Hellyer: I do not think it is being considered, but I am sure it will not be overlooked.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Humboldt-Tisdale-Melfort.

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Tisdale-Melfort): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, but the question I intended to direct to the Minister of Trade and Commerce pertaining to Churchill has already been asked by the hon. member for Churchill.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

NUCLEAR WARHEADS—REQUEST FOR PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION OF AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister and ask him whether it is the intention of the government to lay before parliament for approval the agreement recently signed by the Canadian and United States governments regarding the conditions under which nuclear warheads would be made available to Canadian forces.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my hon. friend for giving me notice of his question. The answer is in the negative. The agreement to which my hon. friend refers is not a treaty or heads of state agreement, which would require ratification and the customary prior approval of the House of Commons. It is an executive agreement, an exchange of notes between governments. The customary and appropriate constitutional procedures have been followed in respect of this matter, which has already been discussed in the House of Commons.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the changed circumstances brought about by the nuclear test ban agreement, does the Prime Minister not think this is a matter which ought to be submitted for the opinion of the house?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the nuclear test ban agreement, which we all welcome, changed the situation in respect of this particular matter in a way which requires the government to alter the normal constitutional procedures with regard to it.