

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I ought to correct the first part of the statement made by the hon. member. What I tabled today was in response to a question from the hon. member for York South. He asked me to table a report we had received about the statement alleged to have been made by Brigadier Hamilton, which has nothing to do with this question.

In answer to the hon. member's question, we have had no direct response. We do understand, however, that the conversations now going on between the International Red Cross and the government in Lagos are proceeding on a somewhat better basis. Conditions have improved to some extent, and we are still hoping for the best.

CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CLAIMS OF DOMINION COAL COMPANY SHAREHOLDERS

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. I have given him notice of it. It is prompted by a statement by a Mr. Charles MacCulloch with reference to the takeover by the government, through the Cape Breton Development Corporation, of Dominion Coal Company. Mr. MacCulloch is quoted as saying:

We feel the government has been dragging its feet on the matter, and quite deliberately, so we're prepared to take it to court.

I ask the minister whether this assertion is correct. I ask, in addition, whether this corporation has in the past ever dragged its feet or evaded its responsibilities?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I have been advised by the Department of Justice that they are still assessing the properties of Dominion Coal Company and there have been no undue delays. Of course, the government is not ready to accept all the claims made by the shareholders. If they want to take this matter to court, it is up to them, but we will not accept any threat from Dominion Coal.

COMMUNICATIONS

COMPLAINTS RESPECTING DELAYS IN TRANSMISSION OF TELEGRAMS AND CABLES

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. It is prompted by widespread complaints, especially from the

[Mr. Brewin.]

Toronto area, concerning excessive delays in the transmission of telegrams and cables by the C.N.-C.P. group. Will the minister, through the C.N. or otherwise, undertake to have this obviously serious matter investigated?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

WESTERN RESERVES—INQUIRY AS TO VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Prime Minister did not include in his formal western itinerary a visit to even a single Indian reservation, would the Acting Prime Minister inform the house whether the itinerary has been adjusted to include such a visit in order that the Indian people may meet with the Prime Minister and, if not, why not?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my recollection from what I have seen of the Prime Minister's itinerary is that he is getting the views of the Indian people directly from the Indians.

AIR TRANSPORT

SUGGESTED FLIGHT SAFETY COMMITTEE—AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Is he in a position to answer my questions taken as notice yesterday? To be precise, can the minister say what reply has been made to the Canadian Airline Pilots Association brief, which suggested that a national flight safety committee should be established? Can the minister also say whether the Department of Transport has any plans to form a flight safety committee, either internally or at the external, national level?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will be meeting with the pilots association within a short time. With regard to the question of a flight safety committee, if it turns out to be the most appropriate forum with which to achieve the results the pilots are advocating, we will be quite prepared to consider it. I hope we can resolve this matter satisfactorily in a short time. Incidentally, the hon. member did not reiterate the question asked yesterday