

Inquiries of the Ministry

think this is the proper time to discuss those details, at least not until the negotiations are completed.

Mr. Barnett: May I ask a supplementary question. When does the minister expect these negotiations will be completed?

Mr. Robichaud: We expect to complete the negotiations with the United States very soon, and we are already arranging negotiations with other interested countries.

NATIONAL GALLERY

REPORTED REMOVAL OF CHAIRMAN OF BOARD

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Hon. Leon Balcer (Three Rivers): Mr. Speaker, my question is intended for the Secretary of State.

Could he tell the house for what reason, other than political, Mr. Thomas Maher, of Quebec city, has been dismissed from his office as chairman of the national gallery?

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am informed that Mr. Maher has not been dismissed from his position at the national gallery.

Mr. Balcer: If he has not been dismissed, could the Secretary of State tell the house what happened exactly?

Mr. Lamontagne: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would be good enough to put his question on the order paper, I shall provide him with an answer.

[Later:]

[Text]

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary question to that asked by the hon. member for Three Rivers, I would ask the Secretary of State whether he is unaware of the fact that Mr. Maher was preemptorily and summarily removed from his position as chairman of the board of trustees of the national gallery.

Mr. Lamontagne: So far as I know, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Maher is still a member of the board.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Would the minister answer the question I asked? Does he know that Mr. Maher was summarily removed from his position as chairman?

Mr. Lamontagne: I do not think he was summarily removed.

[Mr. Robichaud.]

DEFENCE PRODUCTIONCALGARY—REQUEST FOR MAINTENANCE OF
C.P.A. REPAIR BASE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Industry. Have any arrangements been made to continue the operation of the Canadian Pacific Air Lines repair facility at Calgary?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): No arrangements have been made, Mr. Speaker. As the volume of work which supported this facility in Calgary provided by the Department of National Defence has substantially declined, it is not possible to continue the operation of the C.P.A. maintenance base.

Mr. Harkness: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the minister has looked into the fact that a considerable number of R.C.A.F. aeroplanes in storage in southern Alberta will continue to need care and maintenance, and I have reason to believe that the C.P.A. repair facility at Calgary could do this more cheaply than if it were done in any other way.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the information in the hands of the hon. member is quite correct. The present storage arrangements can be continued in their present locations much more economically than by moving them to Calgary.

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister would look into this whole question of what the cost would be in this connection. I doubt very much whether this has been done. I have another supplementary question. What plans, if any, have been made to provide alternative employment for the several hundred men who will lose their jobs as a result of closing out this facility?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to look again into the question of relative costs. In so far as the provision of alternative employment is concerned, there have been a number of conversations between representatives of the Department of Defence Production, the union concerned, the municipal authorities and other representatives from Calgary with a view to exploring all possible avenues of securing alternative employment.