

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, the only answer I can give to the right hon. gentleman who is well known for longevity in more ways than one, including the length of his questions—I had a job getting the kernel out of this one—

Mr. Ricard: Was it sweet?

Mr. Jamieson: I can only report that I received the letter yesterday or the day before, certainly early this week or late last week, and I have not had an opportunity to look at it in detail but I will be discussing it with my officials. I can assure the right hon. gentleman of one thing, namely, that there will be a reply to the letter.

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[Translation]

HOUSING

MODIFICATION OF CMHC BUILDING STANDARDS—
DISCUSSION WITH PROVINCES—AVAILABILITY OF
HOUSING TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the Minister of State for Urban Affairs?

In view of recent news reports, would the hon. minister confirm or deny that his department is presently discussing with the provinces the matter of amending the building regulations administered by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in order to reduce interest rates and enable more low income families to buy houses?

[English]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I have confirmed in the House, there are discussions going on with the provinces which I expect will lead to amendments to the National Housing Act designed to assist low-income people to buy houses.

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TRADE

UNITED STATES DISC PROGRAM—SUGGESTED
APPEARANCE BEFORE COMMITTEE OF UNION AND
COMPANY OFFICIALS INVOLVED

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Essex): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary to a previous question. Because of the urgency of the matter I would like to ask the President of the Privy Council if he would consider recommending to the House that the proper committee hear the union officials and company officials who are involved in the DISC program?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to consider the suggestion and discuss it with my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

TRANSPORT

NEWFOUNDLAND FERRY SERVICE—INQUIRY AS TO
REPLACEMENT VESSEL FOR THE "PATRICK MORRIS"

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. What progress has he made or is he able to announce that he has succeeded in obtaining a suitable additional vessel for the Newfoundland route in replacement for the *Patrick Morris* so that the possibility of having to transfer the *John Hamilton Grey* to that service will be eliminated?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think the second part of the question is not correct in the sense that this would not be the way in which we would proceed except in an absolute emergency. In other words, I have assured Prince Edward Island that the *John Hamilton Grey* will continue in that service on the same basis as last year. With respect to the first part of the question, there are people from my department and others now searching the market, and there is a reasonable prospect that we will get a rail car ferry as opposed to a roll-on, roll-off for the Newfoundland gulf service.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY PROJECT—INQUIRY AS
TO LETTING CONTRACTS AND CONDUCTING SUR-
VEYS—POSSIBLE SURVEY BY ROYAL CANADIAN
ENGINEERS

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. What government department—I presume either Indian Affairs or Public Works—will be letting the contracts for the proposed new highway up the Mackenzie River valley, and what detailed surveys, if any, of the route have been carried out?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Subject to verification with my colleague, Mr. Speaker, I believe the surveys are going to be conducted under the direction of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if any consideration has been given to placing the Royal Canadian Engineers in charge of this project?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe consideration has been given to that. I will gladly make the suggestion to the Minister of National Defence.

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NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

INQUIRY AS TO CONTRACT WITH PINKERTON AGENCY
RESPECTING SERVICES NOW PERFORMED BY CORPS OF
COMMISSIONAIRES

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of State