

AIR TRANSPORT

SYDNEY, N.S., CONTRACT FOR AIR TERMINAL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Then, Mr. Speaker, I have a further question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I ask whether he is responsible for this press release:

Cambrian Construction Limited, Montreal, has been awarded the contract to build a Department of Transport air terminal at Sydney, Nova Scotia, at a cost of \$1,270,000—

I would ask, what has that to do with his department—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The minister has issued a press release—oh, I see it is a press release of the Department of Transport, so it is better directed to the Minister of Transport.

An hon. Member: That is the whole point.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would put the Minister of Transport in the same position because I thought the Department of Public Works was responsible for these projects.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

REQUEST FOR INCREASED PENSIONS FOR RETIRED EMPLOYEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that an answer has been given today to question No. 11 on the order paper concerning pensions of C.N.R. employees, can the minister say whether the government is taking any steps to find ways and means to increase the pensions of retired C.N.R. employees?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I think the hon. gentleman knows that is a matter which is within the scope of the management of the Canadian National Railways. It is the kind of question which, I feel, should be directed to the management when the committee undertakes the annual review of railway affairs.

23033—168

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Knowles: May I ask a supplementary question? I wonder if the minister is aware of the fact that the Prime Minister has been answering letters from retired C.N.R. employees indicating that this matter would be referred to the Minister of Transport for further consideration? Does he not give the consideration that the Prime Minister requests him to give?

Mr. Pickersgill: I am well aware of that and the Minister of Transport, in turn, refers them to the Canadian National.

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE VISIT OF CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI OF POLAND

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is it his intention to make representations to the Polish government so that they permit Cardinal Wyszynski to visit Canada next May?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest that the hon. member should put his question on the order paper.

[English]

NATO—REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF FRANCE—REQUEST FOR BILATERAL MILITARY AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister, although it directly concerns the Secretary of State for External Affairs as well. It is a follow-up question and relates to NATO. Since press releases continue to appear indicating that France may withdraw from NATO, does the Prime Minister have some word for this house with regard to just what is happening to NATO in so far as the relationship with France is concerned?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): We have received a communication from the French government on this matter. This communication is being studied by the Canadian government as well as by the other members of NATO who have received similar communications. We are concerting our consultations with the other members of NATO before we consider any further action. The matter is being considered by the NATO