

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

will the minister arrange for an investigation into this question immediately?

**Mr. Jean-Charles Cantin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** In the absence of the minister I will take this question as notice.

## LEGISLATION RESPECTING FEES FOR OVERFLIGHTS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** I have a question for the Secretary of State, and it arises as a result of research that I have been doing with others outside of this house on Bill No. C-117. This is the bill having to do with fees chargeable for overflights by international air carriers, and I wonder if it is the intention of the government to proceed with this legislation at this session.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State):** Last Friday the Prime Minister indicated that this was not one of those measures that the government considered it essential to pass before prorogation. We will have to wait and see what progress is made with those items that are considered essential.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Can the Secretary of State say whether it is the intention of the government to proceed with Bill No. C-117 at all?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The Secretary of State is not in a position to give any such information because he has not consulted the government as yet.

## AGRICULTURE

## SHEEP SCRAPIE DISEASE—REQUEST FOR ANSWER TO QUESTION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture and ask him when his department will be prepared to answer question No. 1,730, which deals with scrapie in sheep. I ask him this because there is a certain amount of urgency in connection with this subject. The question has been on the order paper now for two weeks, and there are a large number of sheep men in the country who are very concerned that there may be some skulduggery or patronage involved in this question. We would like to have some light thrown on it.

**Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture):** In so far as scrapie is concerned, I might say we are having a meeting of the ministers of agriculture on the 16th, 17th and 18th, here in Ottawa, and we are going to discuss the matter at that time. Dr. Wells, our veterinary director general, has also been to the United States to discuss this problem. I hope that after this meeting we would have something favourable to report.

**Mr. Woolliams:** A supplementary question—

**Mr. Olson:** A supplementary question—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Medicine Hat.

**Mr. Olson:** The information requested in question No. 1,730 is all statistical. It does not deal with policy, and I do not see any reason why it could not be answered before the meeting of the ministers.

**Mr. Hays:** I think, Mr. Speaker, we could better answer it at that time.

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River):** My supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture and will be brief. How much compensation was paid to the same family in Drumheller in connection with loss resulting from this disease, and how much has this government paid as compared to the previous government?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is a question for the order paper, surely.

**Mr. Hays:** I am not allowed to disclose this amount. The compensation was suggested by a committee of three from the Canadian sheepbreeders and two people from the department. Of course this deal was made between the producer and this committee, and it cannot be divulged.

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North):** On what basis does the minister state that this information cannot be divulged? Information along this line has been divulged previously when requested in this house.

**An hon. Member:** This was a deal.

**Mr. Speaker:** I suggest that the minister take the question as notice.

[Later:]

**Mr. Olson:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister arising out of the reply given by the Minister of Agriculture a few moments ago to the effect that he did not intend to divulge either the amount involved or the recipients of awards made because of the alleged diagnosis of scrapie. I would like to ask the Prime Minister under what authority the minister or the Department of Agriculture can make payments to anyone without divulging to parliament the amount and the recipients.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, this is a legal question which I will be glad to discuss with the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Agriculture.