

body which would meet at an early date and look at the question again.

REASON FOR TRIP BY MINISTER TO WEST COAST

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. In light of the trip he made to the west coast over the weekend, can he advise what the purpose of that trip was, and has he anything to report to the House?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the trip, which was reviewed in the House in the question period on Monday, was to have a close look at the rail facilities at the coast, and at the way they service the relevant terminal facilities, in order to lay a basis for further decisions about improving our capacity to go after new record volumes of grain exports.

Mr. Benjamin: Can the minister advise the House whether he was accompanied by some Liberal candidates from the province of Saskatchewan and whether they rode with him on the plane?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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AIRPORTS

PLANS FOR EXPANSION OF VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT—ACQUISITION OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Has his department undertaken studies with regard to the expansion of Vancouver international airport on Sea Island and is the department planning to acquire the other residential properties on the island?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in so far as expansion is concerned there are what I might describe as long-range plans for expansion when and if it becomes necessary. At the moment we are moving ahead with the acquisition of various properties on Sea Island in order to have the land available when the time comes. I cannot be specific in my answer as to which particular properties are being acquired unless the Leader of the Opposition has some specific property in mind.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair might recognize the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville who had a supplementary he wished to ask some time ago. If he does not want to refer to that matter, perhaps he might be recognized on a new question.

Inquiries of the Ministry

TRANSPORT

SUGGESTED REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST INTENTION OF RAILWAYS TO INCREASE POTASH FREIGHT RATES

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the Minister of Transport now that he is in the House. I think it is quite important. In view of the announcement this week that potash freight rates will be substantially increased on June 1 and in view of the protests from both the industry and the premier of Saskatchewan that the railways should not go ahead with this decision, can the minister tell us whether or not he has contacted the railways and asked them to rescind that decision? If he has, can he report to the House?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member knows that neither I nor the government have any authority to roll back a proposed freight increase by either railway other than under the terms of the National Transportation Act. There are a number of cases in the west to which I referred the day before yesterday having to do with appeals that have been lodged with the Canadian Transport Commission. This may very well be one of them or may be affected by those appeals. If such is the case, the CTC will decide whether or not in fact there is a case in the public interest for holding down the rates.

Mr. Nystrom: Would the minister undertake to investigate the matter and report to the House tomorrow?

Mr. Jamieson: I will be glad to do that, Mr. Speaker.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES ON SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALASKAN OIL IF TRANSPORTED THROUGH PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the announcement by Washington last Friday regarding the trans-Alaska pipeline, has the Canadian government had any discussions with Washington regarding sovereignty of the passage of oil from Alaska to the continental United States through the proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline? If so, can he tell the House what these were?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I do not understand the question. Perhaps it could be repeated; perhaps I misunderstood.

Mr. Ritchie: Has the Canadian government had any discussions with Washington regarding sovereignty over oil passing through a pipeline from Alaska to the continental United States?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker, there has not been any discussion, but I understand secretary Morton said that one of the reasons the TAPS line is approved is that the