

Inquiries of the Ministry

of the government to reduce interest rates in connection with Central Mortgage and Housing loans?

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Public Works): All I can say is that if such decision is arrived at it will be announced in due course.

(Translation):

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. Wilfrid Dufresne (Quebec West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister, based on a question he himself had raised in the house on a previous occasion. Has he been in touch with the premiers of the different provinces of Canada and is he considering a tentative date for the forthcoming federal-provincial conference to which he has already referred?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, no date has been set up to now.

(Text):

NATIONAL DEFENCE**RADAR DEFENCE LINES—AVAILABILITY OF
CANADIAN FREIGHT AIRCRAFT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for York West asked the following question:

Can the minister of national defence inform the house whether Canadian air carriers have sufficient freight aircraft of Canadian registry available to handle the airlift required in the construction of the D.E.W. line and the McGill fence?

As I think the question ought to have been addressed to me, with the consent of the house I should like to answer the hon. member. Airlift requirements in connection with construction of the northern and mid-Canada warning lines are being adjusted continuously from week to week and month to month. I cannot, therefore, give a categorical answer to the question. However, it is fully expected that all Canadian carriers, with suitable equipment for the purpose, will have an opportunity to participate in the airlift; but it is possible that assistance by military aircraft may also be needed.

Mr. John B. Hamilton (York West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Transport. In connection with the use of military aircraft, will such aircraft be supplied by the R.C.A.F. or by the United States air force?

[Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North).]

Mr. Marler: I believe that will depend on the circumstances. I am not able to answer as to which of the two air forces would carry out the airlift in question, but I imagine the R.C.A.F. would participate as well as the United States air force.

SUPPLY

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, this is the first motion for committee of supply which has come before the house at this session, and thus it is the first opportunity the opposition has had to raise any specific grievance which we feel requires attention and action by the government before the motion is acceded to. We intend to take advantage of this opportunity to bring before the house and the government the situation which exists with respect to immigration policy.

This subject is one which we feel is, next to high taxation and unemployment, causing more dissatisfaction and concern in Canada today than any other subject. There is concern and dissatisfaction not only with respect to the over-all policy of the government relative to immigration, which indeed is difficult to determine, but also because of the practices of the government in administering that department, the result of which is to create injustices, hardship, and inequities.

The dissatisfaction is threefold. It arises first from the fact that the government does not speak with a clear and consistent voice with regard to immigration matters. Secondly, from the fact that the practices and policies of the government, as carried out by the immigration branch, are not in accordance with the best interests and needs of Canada. Thirdly, because these practices inflict injustice and bitter hardship on both Canadians and non-Canadians.

In presenting this case on behalf of the official opposition I have tried to summarize these complaints into a motion—perhaps it might be called a motion of censure—which we propose to move, and which for the sake of clarity and continuity of discussion I shall now read although I am not moving it at the present moment. We shall be moving:

That the motion be amended by deleting therefrom all the words after the word "That" and substituting therefor the following:

in the opinion of this house, the immigration policy of the government is not clear, consistent or co-ordinated; is not in conformity with the needs or the responsibilities of Canada; and in its administration denies simple justice to Canadians and non-Canadians alike.