

Inquiries of the Ministry

Prime Minister and ask him if he has seen the article written by George Bain, appearing in this morning's *Globe and Mail*, to the effect that the sale of the Canadair CL-44 to the United States as a military cargo carrier has been hanging by only the thinnest of threads? Mr. Bain goes on to say that the only way to effect this sale is through direct intervention by the Prime Minister with the President of the United States when their meeting takes place. I wonder if the Prime Minister has any comment to make?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the answer to both questions is no.

ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCES**REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING UNIVERSITY BURSARY PLAN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erhart Regier (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he has recently had representations made to him by the Canadian federation of university students in regard to a proposed bursary plan. If so, has he any announcement to make in this regard?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there were representations made to the government some two or three days ago by three representatives of the university federation. These representations naturally will receive the fullest consideration.

AGRICULTURE**REFERENCE TO REMARKS OF MINISTER RESPECTING BREEDING PROGRAMS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Walter Pitman (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture based on a recent newspaper report which quotes the hon. gentleman as saying that we:

—have breeding programs for just about everything except trees and human beings and I see no reason why trees should be exempt any longer—

Would the minister assure the house that the minister does not plan to encourage any further exemptions?

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**INQUIRY AS TO REPLENISHMENT OF FUND**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour based on a report today from the dominion bureau of statistics that 754,000

[Mr. Chevrier.]

individuals claimed unemployment insurance as of December 30 last. Will the minister tell the house whether the government proposes to replenish the unemployment insurance fund out of consolidated revenue and if not what method the government is going to employ to replenish the fund so that further claimants will be guaranteed their contractual rights under the Unemployment Insurance Act?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, this government has always shouldered its responsibilities with a marked degree of responsibility. If the government arrives at any policy in respect of the matters raised by the hon. member, it will make that decision known here in the house.

COAL**CAPE BRETON—REQUEST FOR REPLY TO QUESTIONS ON ORDERS OF THE DAY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Prime Minister whether he is in a position today to answer two questions put to him on February 15, one by the hon. member for Gloucester dealing with a meeting between representatives of government, management and labour with respect to the coal industry in Cape Breton and the other by the Leader of the Opposition with respect to the so-called Rand report. The hon. gentleman indicated that he would have to examine the record before he could supply answers to these questions. Is he yet in a position to deal with them?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I am not in a position to reply to those questions today. I do not have the information with me.

TRANSPORT**SPRINGHILL, N.S.—REQUEST FOR MAINTENANCE OF RAILWAY SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport, and I apologize for not sending him notice. My question rises out of a decision by the board of transport commissioners to allow the Cumberland Railway Company to abandon its 4-mile railway service from Springhill to Springhill Junction, Nova Scotia. In view of the serious tragedies that have befallen this town would the government consider making this railway a part of the Canadian National Railways system so that the service necessary to the industrial survival and growth of Springhill may be maintained?