

midst, and has been carried on ever since the end of the war and before that time. A day or so ago the Canadian Press dealt with one phase of the matter. They quote an unimpeachable source which points out that there was quite a racket in regard to hockey players crossing the frontier. In particular, they mention that the preliminary stages of the probe had disclosed that some of the fake passports were made out in the names of players supposedly going to England, in spite of the fact that hockey teams were not operating in that country during the war. The article also points out that in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police a similar investigation is continuing in the United States through the means of the bureau of investigation. Is the minister in a position to give a report on what the mounted police are doing in this connection; the extent, if any, of the ramifications of a racket in the matter of false passports and, generally, what measures are being taken by the minister's department to assure that this country shall be protected from the activities of communistic agitators?

Mr. LESAGE: What has this to do with marine services?

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Generally it refers to it, if the hon. gentleman will read the item.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Since that question arose, and before that, it was carefully, completely and diligently gone into, and I am happy to be able to state that to the credit of the sporting fraternity of Canada there is nothing whatsoever in any of the false passports which could be linked up with the travelling of our sporting enthusiasts. I was informed this morning, though the question had not come up, but because I was personally interested in it, that the police had completed their investigation and they could assure me that the skirts of all the hockey and other sporting organizations were quite clean and that they had not been used in any way to facilitate the obtaining of false passports.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I am glad to hear that.

Item agreed to.

352. Grant to the chief constables' association of Canada, \$500.

Mr. GRAYDON: Some time ago I asked the minister a question with respect to a resolution passed by the chief constables' association of Canada regarding repeater criminals. The minister must find the resolutions passed by this association of considerable help in his administration, because of

[Mr. Dief.nbaker.]

the experience they have had of the problems which come before the department. Has the minister anything further to add to the statement which he made at that time when he mentioned that this matter was being dealt with by the new penal commission? Is there anything further to report to the committee at this time?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I have only a provisional report which I can make. The penitentiary commissioner has been travelling about visiting the penal institutions and profiting by his travels to communicate with the officials of the attorneys general of the provinces. After each trip he has made a verbal report to me. As one would naturally expect, he has met with the most cordial reception everywhere and with the expressly stated desire to bring about closer cooperation among the enforcement officers of the country, whether federal or provincial, to deal with that aspect of the situation. He has not yet had an opportunity of visiting all Canadian centres, but he is, I think, fulfilling the hopes which had been placed in him as to the efficiency of his work in that direction.

Mr. MERRITT: Would the minister permit me to ask a question about item 351 which went through so quickly that I missed it? I note that there is an item of \$295,000 for acquisition of aircraft. Would the minister say how many aircraft the R.C.M.P. are to have and generally give us the purpose of this air service? Will these aircraft be bought from the R.C.A.F. and therefore will not cost the country additional money, or are they to be bought new from private sources?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: As the hon. member knows, the mounted police had a small air arm before the war, which was turned over to the department of defence for air when war broke out. That branch of the service is being reestablished, and the force has now five aircraft. It has not yet acquired any large craft that would be available to transport a group of constables who might be required for special service at any point, but has an arrangement with the R.C.A.F. to provide it, naturally at the cost of the R.C.M.P., with transport planes when occasion may require. There are two Beechcraft, one Drummond Goose, and two Norsemen. The commissioner returned on Saturday from an extended trip which took him away up into the arctic region. In a period of not more than two weeks he was able to visit all the posts of the northwest, away up in the arctic circle, and I am convinced that a visit from