

Inquiries of the Ministry
PACIFIC CONFERENCE

QUESTION AS TO CONSIDERATION OF A PACIFIC
PACT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, having to do with the departure of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Mayhew) to attend the Pacific conference. I know the house will wish him well on his trip to represent Canada at that meeting. Within the last two days the press has stated that the governments of Australia and New Zealand intend to press at that conference for a Pacific pact, and will ask for the support of North America. What stand will the minister take at that conference on behalf of the people of Canada in reference to including Canada in the Pacific pact?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The conference to which my hon. friend has referred will open in Sydney on May 15, and, as has been stated, the Minister of Fisheries will represent the government at that conference. It is a meeting of the commonwealth consultative committee recommended by the commonwealth conference held at Colombo last January. This conference will discuss recommendations for economic and technical help through the commonwealth organization to the countries of southeast Asia. It is not expected by the Canadian government that political questions of the kind indicated by my hon. friend will be discussed.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Indicated by the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Mr. Pearson: The matter may be brought up by some member of the conference, and if so, the Canadian delegate will report that fact back to his government. As we did not expect that this subject would be a matter of discussion, no decision has been taken by the government as to what the Canadian delegate would do if it is brought up.

SUPPLY

The house resumed from Tuesday, May 2, consideration of the motion of Mr. Fournier (Hull) for committee of supply, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Drew.

COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN CANADA

Mr. J. M. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that anyone can take part in a debate of this kind without a strong sense not only of the importance but of the great difficulty of the subject. It is so utterly repugnant to us to feel, as we have to feel,

is not expected that the DC-3's will reach a second major overhaul period—which would not occur inside of three or four years—while still in T.C.A.'s service, and therefore progressive major overhaul, if applied to this aircraft as a policy, would represent an unjustified expense.

The engineering and development departments were considerably expanded for the type of work always involved in the placing in service of any new aeroplane. These staffs were established to carry out the DC-3 development program and were retained until similar work was completed on the North Star. This task on the larger aircraft is now completed.

QUESTION AS TO REPORT OF RAILWAYS AND
SHIPPING COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce, or the chairman of the special committee on railways and shipping owned, operated and controlled by the government, whether the final report of that committee will be presented soon so that the matter just referred to by the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Stewart) may be discussed in the house?

Mr. Hughes Cleaver (Halton): The report is being drafted and will be presented in due course. I expect it will be presented within the next week or two.

Mr. Knowles: Too late.

INDIANS

REPORTED REFUSAL OF AGENT TO ALLOW INDIAN
TO VISIT SICK DAUGHTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Bryce (Selkirk): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Can the minister tell the house the conditions under which an Indian agent refused to allow an Indian to visit his seriously sick daughter at Hearst?

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I suppose that question is prompted by an article which appeared in the press last evening. I called for a report at once, and have received an interim report which indicates that the newspaper article is far from complete. I would prefer to wait until I receive the final report and then give it to my hon. friend.