

*Inquiries of the Ministry***NATIONAL DEFENCE****PRESENCE OF SOVIET VESSEL OFF QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS**

**Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the previous line of questioning directed to the Minister of National Defence with regard to the subject of foreign personnel on or near Canadian territory. Has the minister had any reports of a Soviet vessel, allegedly on an oceanographic survey, which has been anchored off the Queen Charlotte Islands for some days during the past week, and have units of the Canadian defence forces been maintaining surveillance of this vessel?

**Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the Secretary of State for External Affairs probably has more information on this matter than I have. All I know is that the Canadian forces are maintaining surveillance of the ship. This is just a normal operation for the forces. We understand that the ship is outside our limits on the west coast, and therefore it does not present any security problem.

**AIR CANADA****EFFECT OF WORK TO RULE ANNOUNCEMENT BY CANADIAN AIRLINE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the congenial Minister of Transport. Has the minister any statement to make on the effect the Canadian Airline Employees Association announcement of working to rule as of 6 a.m. today will have on Canada's major air line at the height of our tourist season?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** No, Mr. Speaker, I have no definitive statement on that matter at the moment. We do not really know what the ramifications will be or just how effective the working to rule will be. We are looking into the question in order to ascertain what we can do to alleviate the difficulty which may be experienced by the travelling public, but I do not have anything specific to say at this time.

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. Now that Premier Smallwood has decided to remain as Liberal leader in Newfoundland, will the minister now be able to devote full time to his duties?

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**TRANSPORT****RAILWAYS—MAINTENANCE OF PASSENGER SERVICE STANDARD**

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is related to one already asked and has to do with tourists during the peak of the summer season. Is the minister now in a position to reply to the question directed to him earlier regarding the lack of service on Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the problem is that there are two periods each summer, early July and early September, when there is an extremely heavy load on and demand for the transcontinental trains. To cope with that additional load and at the same time provide for the normal over the year traffic would require a great deal of extra, new equipment. The alternative is to put back into service old equipment. This generally results in complaints by the travelling public. The peak seems to be over for the start of this summer but the problem will arise later in the year. I believe the railways would be prepared to put on some of the older equipment if the public understands that the service will not be up to the normal level.

**Mr. Alexander:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister assure the house that he will take back to the railway officials the suggestion that notwithstanding the fact there may be some objection to old rolling stock being used this can be done to alleviate the situation, and would he have the railways advertise this fact to the travelling public?

**Mr. Jamieson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is the nature of the representation I propose to make to the railways.

**EXTERNAL AID****BIAFRA—REPLY TO CANADIAN OFFER TO PROVIDE NEUTRAL RELIEF FLIGHT OBSERVERS**

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, the Acting Prime Minister today tabled a communication from the High Commissioner in Lagos, presumably referring to a Canadian offer to provide inspectors for mercy flights. Will he tell the house whether the High Commissioner's communication indicates that the Nigerian federal government is willing to accept the Canadian proposal without crippling conditions?