

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

entrusted the task of investigating the feasibility of the Chignecto canal? This was promised in Saint John, New Brunswick, by the Prime Minister on May 3.

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, a number of transport and allied problems are now under consideration by my department, and at such time as there are any announcements to be made to this house concerning those studies, they will be made.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

## INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Alistair Stewart (Winnipeg North):** I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. When does the Prime Minister intend to introduce legislation to provide a bill of rights for Canadians?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the matter is receiving the earnest consideration of the Department of Justice, who are looking into it in order to bring together in proper alliance all the necessary questions which must be considered before such a bill will be introduced or could be introduced.

**TRADE**

## REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON RECENT CONFERENCES WITH UNITED KINGDOM

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** I wonder if the Minister of Finance could tell us when we may expect to hear or receive details of the recent proposal made by Her Majesty's government in the United Kingdom under the general heading of a free trade plan between the United Kingdom and Canada?

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** I shall be glad to make a statement, if it is the wish of the house, on the subject of the trade proposals and the various recent conferences on the subject of trade. I shall be glad to do that at any time it is the wish of the house.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I am sure my hon. friend will recognize the importance of this matter. Perhaps he and the Prime Minister could make an announcement at an early date when this may be done, because I think he will agree there is very wide interest in this subject.

[Mr. Murphy (Westmorland).]

**Mr. Fleming:** I will be glad, at a very early time, to make a statement reviewing the various recent trade conferences and the matters that have emerged from them, if that is the wish of the house.

**AIR TRANSPORT**

## AIR TRAFFIC RIGHTS, ITALY-CANADA—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. George C. Marler (St. Antoine-Westmount):** I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Could he tell the house whether negotiations which were undertaken earlier this year between Canada and Italy with regard to the exchange of air traffic rights have been concluded, and whether or not those negotiations have resulted in an agreement?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will take that as notice and answer on the next occasion.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

## REQUEST FOR EARLY DEBATE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** Can the Prime Minister advise the house as to whether it is the intention to have a special sitting of the house at an early date to discuss international affairs, in view of the development of the intercontinental missile and the satellite, and their relationship to defence so far as Canada is concerned?

It is of the utmost importance now in the world, in my opinion, and surely the House of Commons ought to meet to consider it.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the opportunity to discuss that matter and all other matters will now be available when the speech from the throne is being discussed. Above everything else at the moment I desire to hasten at the earliest possible date the introduction of immediate and emergent legislation, such as cash advances on farm-stored wheat. For that reason at the moment I would suggest that anyone who has opinions on the subject of international affairs will have a full and complete opportunity to air them during the debate which will begin this afternoon. Then following the introduction of the emergent legislation—whenever we introduce the legislation in order to expedite it—and its being dealt with full consideration certainly will be given to setting aside a day or so for the discussion of international affairs, so important are they.