

Inquiries of the Ministry

strip itself but of course a town in Egyptian territory. There are no Egyptian forces to my knowledge inside the Gaza strip.

Mr. Green: Apart from the Egyptian general and the members of his staff?

Mr. Pearson: The Egyptian general has entered the Gaza strip as an administrator on behalf of the Egyptian government.

Mr. G. R. Pearkes (Esquimalt-Saanich): Have the United Nations forces any responsibility in connection with aid to the civil power in the Gaza strip or the Sinai peninsula?

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker. When the Israeli civil and military administration withdrew from the Gaza strip, the only civil power within the strip was the United Nations emergency force itself, and there are no arrangements that I know of by which that United Nations force has any obligation to assist the civil power there or anywhere else.

GULF OF AQABA—REPORTED BARRING OF ISRAELI SHIPPING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Carl O. Nickle (Calgary South): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs with reference to a story that appeared in the *Toronto Star* on the week end. Is it correct that Saudi Arabia and Egypt have joined forces to bar the gulf of Aqaba to the shipping of Israel? If so, what action is contemplated by the Canadian government in this connection?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I saw the story, Mr. Speaker, and I do not know whether or not it is accurate but our position on this matter is perfectly clear and has been announced both here and at the United Nations, namely that the gulf of Aqaba is an international waterway and there should be free passage through those waters and through the strait of Tiran for the ships of all states.

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

INDIAN AFFAIRS—REFERENCE TO REPORTED CONDITIONS IN STEWART LAKE AREA, B.C.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Has the minister's attention been directed to press reports in the *Vancouver Province* which reached here on Saturday that the conditions of the Indians in the Stewart Lake agency at Fort Ware are deplorable, and that the Indians

[Mr. Pearson.]

are existing in conditions of starvation owing to the almost complete collapse of their fur market; and if these reports have been directed to the minister, would the minister comment on their accuracy and on the measures which are being taken to improve the situation?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): I can only say that the *Vancouver Province* has, latterly, not been my favourite reading. I did not, in fact, see any such story in the *Vancouver Province*, but I have heard the story of the deplorable condition in which these Indians in the Stewart Lake area were found by the Indian superintendent for this district when he made his visit there, and steps are being taken immediately to provide relief.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

PETERBOROUGH—DEMOLITION OF OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough): I would like, Mr. Speaker, to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. Can the minister say when the old post office building in Peterborough is to be torn down to make way for a new office building to house the unemployment insurance offices?

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Public Works): I cannot say now, Mr. Speaker, but I will take the question as notice.

POTATOES

CANADA—UNITED STATES—INQUIRY AS TO INCREASE IN TARIFF

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. W. Montgomery (Victoria-Carleton): May I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has the minister received information from the United States indicating their attitude on the upward adjustment of tariffs on potatoes entering Canada? If so, can he add anything to the statement that was made in the budget?

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance): No, there is nothing further on that, and I do not think I ought to add anything at the moment. But I assure the house that as soon as I have information I will communicate it.

AGRICULTURE

PRODUCER MARKETING BOARDS—NEW LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Agriculture. Can the minister say whether legislation will be introduced this session as a result