

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I think the announcement made clear that the decision of the government was taken on the basis of the proposals made by the bidders, closing on May 31, 1963. Subsequent revisions and proposed alterations to bids were not taken into consideration.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the government bound by contract with Deuterium Corporation of Canada?

Mr. Drury: No, Mr. Speaker.

EXPORT TO U.S. OF PRODUCTS OF STUDEBAKER CORPORATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): I have a question for the Minister of Industry following upon the announcement that the Studebaker corporation will do all their manufacturing in Canada. Does the minister expect any difficulty in connection with the export of Studebaker products from Canada to the United States; that is, will there be any resistance on the part of the United States tariff authorities?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the specific question, while I think we all regret the economic difficulties in which the Studebaker corporation has found itself in the United States, I would hope that the United States authorities would not interpose any difficulties in the way of those in the United States who wish to purchase the products of the Studebaker corporation from Canadian sources.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MEMBERS' SECRETARIES TO BE KEPT ON STRENGTH DURING RECESS

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Guy Marcoux (Quebec-Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. Could he tell the house whether the board of internal economy has come to a decision as to what will happen, during the intersession, to the members' secretaries or stenographers?

[Text]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): Speaking perhaps unwisely, sir, from recollection, I believe it was decided at the last meeting of the commissioners of internal economy that as the interval between this session and the next one would be rather short, it would be desirable to keep the secretaries of members on the staff during that interval.

[Mr. Kindt.]

POWER

COLUMBIA RIVER—INQUIRY AS TO PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he considers the time is now ripe to give the house the facts in regard to the negotiations respecting the Columbia?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): These discussions are continuing, and they will be resumed today at four o'clock. When they are concluded, I think, would be the appropriate time, if the circumstances at that time warrant such action.

THE MINISTRY

INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBILITY OF CHANGES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Temiscamingue): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the widespread reports, I wonder if the Prime Minister could say whether any changes in the ministry are now imminent.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): This is not the kind of announcement to make on orders of the day, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Martineau: May I ask a supplementary question. Can the Prime Minister categorically state that no changes are imminent?

Mr. Pearson: Well, Mr. Speaker, I might take an airplane and go to Quebec during the Christmas recess.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): In view of the extraordinarily communicative attitude of the Prime Minister and his discussion about trips, could he tell us whether the Minister of Finance is about to take a trip to the United Kingdom to take over another position there?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, my previous answer covered that point.

AIR TRANSPORT

SUGGESTED CONNECTION OF AIR TRAGEDIES WITH AIR TURBULENCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe East): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Transport, or in his absence his parliamentary secretary. In view of the recent tragedies in which jet planes have been involved, and the suggestion that marked air turbulence may have something to do with these accidents,