

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Minister of Labour. When I asked the Minister yesterday about the possibility of the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act being amended by July 1 so that federal employees covered by it would have the same conditions other employees have under the Canada Labour Code, he told me he was shy about giving me a deadline and that he did not intend to let me beguile him. I wonder whether the Minister is aware of the fact that on February 26, when I asked him whether these people would be covered by July 1—those who are federal employees—in the same way as those who come under the Canada Labour Code, his reply was “That is the intention.” Will the Minister confirm that intention now?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Well, Mr. Speaker, it was stated at the time the Canada Labour Code was debated that it was the intention of the Government to apply the same principle to its own employees, and that is still the intention.

Mr. Knowles: But will this be done by July 1?

Mr. MacEachen: That is the intention, Mr. Speaker.

AIRPORTS

ST. HUBERT. QUE.—SALE OF MILITARY AIRPORT

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Last Wednesday, in the minister's absence, I put the following question to his parliamentary secretary: Why was the St. Hubert airport in Quebec, offered for sale?

[*Text*]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I thought I had with me at the moment certain information about that matter, but I find I have not got it with me today. Therefore I will try to answer the question tomorrow.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT ON RUN-THROUGHS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. R. Southam (Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to direct to the Minister of Labour. On Friday last the hon. Member for Melville (Mr. Ormiston) inquired from the Minister whether the

[Mr. Knowles.]

hearings concerning the C.N.R. run-through problems were concluded, and when we may expect the report from Judge Freedman. The Minister indicated that he would take the question as notice and give the House an answer this week. Is he now prepared to give the House that answer?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the dates are May 7 in the first instance, and June 30 in the second.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a very brief question to the Prime Minister, although perhaps it might also be directed to the Minister of Transport, who I understand was present on the occasion in question. My question concerns a very intriguing report in yesterday's press indicating that Premier Ho Chi Minh of North Viet Nam, Premier Chou En-lai of China, Premier Castro of Cuba and Premier Kosygin of the Soviet Union were formally invited to take part in the convention of the Young Liberal Party which took place in Toronto last week end. In view of the fact that they did not turn up at that meeting, I am wondering whether the Government is now considering issuing formal invitations to those gentlemen to visit Canada.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE RESPECTING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS BY HAL BANKS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister which concerns the three points of privilege stated yesterday by Members of this House on the Government side, namely the hon. Member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Turner), the hon. Member for Notre Dame de Grâce (Mr. Asselin) and the hon. Member for Lafontaine (Mr. Lachance). In view of the questions of privilege which were raised, which will very seriously endanger the reputation of the House and the Party in power, I am wondering whether the Prime Minister will consider referring the whole matter to a special investigating committee, as was done with the N.D.P. accusations of electoral fraud, and whether he would not consider taking this step so as to justify his own Members and clear this House from any bad reflections this matter could have.