

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Is the house agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

POWER**PASSAMAQUODDY—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S.**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is the minister in a position to report on the state of negotiations between Canada and the United States regarding the development of Passamaquoddy bay from a power point of view?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): There are no negotiations between the government of the United States and the government of Canada on this subject. There have been technical discussions for the purpose of considering the next step only.

BAY OF FUNDY—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON INVESTIGATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): I should like to ask the Minister of Transport when the house may expect a report from the minister and the Atlantic development board with regard to the investigation being carried out concerning the feasibility of harnessing the bay of Fundy tides?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I will be delighted to give such a report when my estimates are before the house.

Mr. Coates: In view of the importance of the development of the bay of Fundy power potential, will the minister give consideration to providing a report at an earlier date than when his estimates are before the house?

Mr. Pickersgill: This matter, as I think I indicated at the last session, is under study at the present time and the study has not been completed. There would be no advantage in attempting to make a report until there is something upon which to report.

PAYMENT OF GRANT TO NEW BRUNSWICK COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. Chester MacRae (York-Sunbury): I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether all or any portion of the \$20 million grant allocated by the Atlantic development board to the province of New Brunswick for the construction of the Mactaquac power project has been forwarded to the government of New Brunswick, and, if not, when it is expected that this payment will be made.

[Mr. Douglas.]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): No payment has yet been made to the New Brunswick electric power commission. The terms of the grant are that accounts will be submitted as progress is made and that a proportion of the costs will be paid by the Atlantic development board.

TRANS-CANADA AIR LINES**WINNIPEG MAINTENANCE BASE—COMMUNICATIONS WITH PREMIER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. I should like to ask him the extent of the communications he has had with Premier Roblin regarding the maintenance of the T.C.A. repair base in Winnipeg.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I should not like to do that on a question on orders of the day without notice. On a suitable occasion I shall be glad to make a statement. I believe there is a motion on the order paper for the production of papers in connection with this matter, too.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister, supplementary to the one asked a moment ago by the hon. member for Winnipeg North. With respect to the T.C.A. maintenance and overhaul base at Winnipeg, the retention of which the Prime Minister has both assured and reconfirmed, can he also reconfirm the assurance given at the last session that the employment levels at that base will be maintained?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the assurances I have given at the last session have been reconfirmed since then, most recently in a telegram to the premier of Manitoba.

REPORTED STATEMENT BY MINISTER RESPECTING SHORT RUNS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I have a question for the Minister of Transport based upon press reports relating to statements made by him concerning his intention to have T.C.A. cancel short route runs. Can the hon. gentleman tell the house when he intends to commence this decimation of T.C.A.?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I was rather surprised to read what I was supposed to have said, myself. What I did in fact say was that T.C.A. had found in western Canada, as hon. members well know, that there are certain of these short routes which cannot be serviced with modern long