

Inquiries of the Ministry

experienced among their constituents. With this in view, I shall be happy to arrange for any hon. member, including my hon. friend who asked this question, to discuss this whole matter with the members of the commission and myself because it is not quite as simple as it appears to be on the surface.

Mr. Knowles: May I ask a supplementary question? If the commission finds it impossible to deal with this matter by regulation and if the problem still continues, will the government introduce at this session any necessary amendments to the act?

Mr. Gregg: I should like to be satisfied—as I hope to be shortly—as to the answer to the first part of my hon. friend's question before I answer the second part.

TRADE

GATT CONFERENCE—INSTRUCTIONS TO CANADIAN DELEGATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): May I ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce if he will acquaint the house with the instructions under which the Canadian delegation will be operating at the forthcoming conference with respect to the extension or modification of the general agreement on tariffs and trade?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The delegation will be instructed to represent Canada to the best of their ability. It is not expected that the area of the tariff negotiations will be particularly wide. The negotiators we send are experienced men and they will report, as they appear, any opportunities to improve the Canadian position.

Mr. Fleming: May I ask the minister further whether there are any specific instructions as to seeking a widening or any particular form of modification of the existing agreement or is it merely a matter of a general extension?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): No. This is a discussion of individual items. Whether we may widen the area of negotiation I cannot say. Frankly, we think that the results are not likely to be startling.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

REQUEST FOR EQUALIZATION OF SASKATOON-SUTHERLAND AREA RATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. R. Knight (Saskatoon): I should like to address to the Postmaster General a question of which I sent him notice. In view

of the recent amalgamation of the town of Sutherland with the city of Saskatoon, has consideration been given to equating postal rates within the whole area so constituted? If so, what has been the result of such consideration?

Hon. Hugues Lapointe (Postmaster General): This matter is under active consideration at the present time. I would hope to be able to advise my hon. friend on the matter in the near future.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

D.E.W. LINE—AVAILABILITY OF CANADIAN PERSONNEL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo): Has the attention of the Minister of National Defence been called to press reports that United States personnel will man the distant early warning line in the Canadian Arctic because of the lack of suitable Canadian personnel, and would he care to comment upon that press report?

Hon. R. O. Campney (Minister of National Defence): I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question. I may say that the question of manning the D.E.W. line, which, of course, is not yet completed, is under consideration. As it is at present the subject of discussions I think it would be premature for me to comment. As soon as it is possible to make a statement with respect to the matter one will be made.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO SHIPMENT OF AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Alistair Stewart (Winnipeg North): I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Have any aircraft been shipped from Canada to Egypt recently or are there any orders on hand for the export of such aircraft?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): In order to give a final answer to this question I would have to make inquiries of the Department of Trade and Commerce as well as my own department. However, I believe I can say at once that I know of no shipments of Canadian aircraft to Egypt or of any orders for such shipments.