



# DAILY AIRMAIL BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

*(For official use only. This bulletin is intended solely for the information of Canadian Government officials stationed abroad. Its contents are not for publication or distribution. It is based largely on press reports not verified by the Department which can take no responsibility for their accuracy.)*

Vol. 6, No. 105

Wednesday, June 1, 1955.

New Customs Law Debated: Ottawa, May 31 (CP) -- An opposition member's suggestion to soften the strict wording of a proposed new customs law on border crossings was described today by Revenue Minister McCann as an invitation to smugglers.

Mr. Donald Fleming (PC-Toronto Eglinton) made the suggestion in criticizing a bill later passed by the House of Commons which would require everyone entering Canada to report to customs. The present law requires persons to report only if they are carrying goods into Canada.

Mr. Fleming said the new measure goes pretty far. On the Prairies, a customs house might be 25 miles from a road crossing the border yet the law required a motorist or a farmer driving a horse to report to customs before unloading any goods he carried.

He suggested a change in wording to require persons to report to customs only "as soon as practicable." Dr. McCann said he had heard no greater invitation to smuggling than that.

He said that although the wording of the law is being changed, there would be no change in the procedure followed for 50 years.

Mr. William Houck (L-Niagara Falls) asked assurance that the bill will not affect commuters going to work across the border. It seemed to require a thorough customs inspection every time they crossed the border.

Dr. McCann said commuters will be dealt with as always and will not be delayed.

DEW Line Regulations To Protect Eskimos: Ottawa, May 31 (CP) Opposition Leader Drew said today the Government apparently has put an "Iron Curtain" around white men in regulations designed to protect Eskimos during construction of the DEW (Distant Early Warning) radar line along Canada's Arctic coast.

He was referring in the Commons to a Canada-United States agreement for construction of the line. It stipulates that white workers must avoid all contact with Eskimos, other than those working on the line, except in emergencies.

Mr. Drew said yesterday that the order is "without precedent" in affecting Canadian citizens. It would deny soldiers of the U.S., building the line, the rights accorded anyone else travelling in the north.

Mr. Lesage said today the regulations are not directed against U.S. soldiers. They applied to any and all white persons working on the line.

He agreed the restrictions might not be fully understood in the U.S. However, the agreement said the Eskimos should not be subjected unduly to disruption of their hunting economy, exposure to diseases against which their immunity is often low, or other effects of the presence of white men which might be injurious to them."

Studying Plans For Atomic Power: Chalk River, May 31 (CP) -- Preliminary plans for construction of an atomic power plant will be discussed here Thursday and Friday by the National Advisory Committee on Atomic Power Development.

The experimental plant, which is designed to produce 20,000 kilowatts, is scheduled to go into operation in 1958. It is to be known as NPD- Nuclear Power Demonstration.

(over)