

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

yesterday by the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski). The hon. member inquired about the extension of the season at Churchill. The answer is that the firm of Hedlin-Menzies of Winnipeg was engaged by the Department of Transport to conduct a study concerning the possibility of extending the season at the port of Churchill, Manitoba. It is expected that this report will be completed by mid-November. The report was not intended as a public document but when it is available further consideration will be given to the hon. member's request.

**AIRPORTS**

VAL D'OR, QUE.—INQUIRY AS TO OPENING

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday notice was taken of a question asked by the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Tétrault) requesting information concerning when the inauguration of Val D'Or airport will take place. The answer is that the airport has been operational since October 1, 1968. Some details, such as a concession agreement, have to be settled before the official opening. It is expected that these agreements will be completed in the near future.

**AGRICULTURE**

REQUEST FOR INCREASED PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Does the government plan to upgrade Prairie Farm Assistance Act payments to realistic levels in view of the severe loss of income in areas where there has been crop failure and inasmuch as the present farm legislation does not in any way remedy the situation or help the farmers who do not have crops?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, there are no amendments to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act under consideration to deal with the 1968 crop season.

SASKATCHEWAN—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister received a communication from the council of the city of Saskatoon requesting the federal

[Mr. Hellyer.]

government to take such action as is necessary to minimize the serious economic consequences of the existing harvest conditions in the province of Saskatchewan?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It is neither in order nor acceptable from a procedural standpoint to ask whether or not a communication has been received.

**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**

PROPOSED LAY-OFF OF SECURITY STAFF, ATLANTIC REGION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Charles H. Thomas (Moncton):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Has the minister received an urgent communication protesting the imminent lay-off of 30 per cent of the C.N.R. security police in the Atlantic region? If so, what action is the government taking to preserve the jobs of these people and to ensure adequate protection of public property?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, a communication has been received. I have not yet had time to refer it to the officials of the Canadian National Railways for their comments.

**Mr. Thomas (Moncton):** Would the Minister of Transport confer with the proper officials of the C.N.R. and ask them to reconsider their position?

**TRANSPORT**

REQUEST FOR RESTORATION OF RAIL SERVICE, TORONTO-NEW YORK

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Will the minister use his good offices to get in touch with the presidents of both our Canadian railways in an effort to ensure that railway passenger service is restored immediately between the city of Toronto and the city of New York? I ask this question in view of the fact that all passenger service has been discontinued between these two major cities and in view of the conditions at Kennedy airport, New York, both administrative and weather-wise.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has made a representation rather than asked a question. I can only assume that it has been noted.