

Inquiries of the Ministry

As to the first part of the question, I am advised that no application has been made for fifth freedom rights by Trans-Canada Air Lines at United States airports.

In regard to the latter part, there have been informal discussions between Canadian and United States government representatives but these discussions have not yet led to any final agreement.

CANADIAN PACIFIC STEAMSHIPS**BRITISH COLUMBIA—STATEMENT ON REPORTED POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVED SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Skeena made the following inquiry on the orders of the day:

Has the Department of Transport received a report from Canadian Pacific Steamships relative to the operation of steamships between the mainland of British Columbia and Vancouver island to the effect that a more efficient and faster service between the two points is possible? If so, what plan does the department have for the institution of such a service?

In reply I may say I am advised that no such report has been received in the department.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**RUSSIA—STATEMENT ON OPERATION OF SHIPS OFF NEWFOUNDLAND**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, may I answer the question which was asked yesterday by the hon. member for Burin-Burgeo, regarding the operations of Russian trawlers on or near the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. No reports have been received by the Canadian maritime commander, Atlantic, which would indicate that Russian trawlers operating in the Grand Banks area are not observing the international regulations for preventing collisions at sea.

ICELAND—STATEMENT ON EXTENSION OF FISHING LIMITS FOR FOREIGN TRAWLERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yesterday the hon. member for Gloucester addressed this question to me:

In view of the recent threat by the Danish islands in the north Atlantic to follow the example of Iceland and extend their fishing limits to 12 miles, can the minister advise the house if the Canadian government recognizes the extension of the fishing limits to a 12-mile width of waters off their coasts, as announced by the government of Iceland?

Since this question, Mr. Speaker, is predicated on the assumption that Iceland has now formally extended its fishing limits to 12 miles, I must point out that there has been no extension by the Icelandic government of its fisheries limits. The only definite announcement that has been made in this respect by the Icelandic government is that it has expressed its intention to establish such a zone on September 1, so I cannot answer the hon. member's hypothetical question.

Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester): Would the Secretary of State for External Affairs answer the second question which I addressed to him yesterday, and which is recorded on page 1037 of *Hansard*? It is based on a statement made in Halifax on Sunday last and reported in the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* of Monday, June 9, to the effect that Canada would try to obtain a compromise arrangement concerning the 12-mile fishing limit at the next conference on the law of the sea?

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries): Since this question is apparently based on an interview with me perhaps I should answer it. It is evident from the news story that a misconstruction was inadvertently put on a reply which I made to a question.

The misunderstanding probably arose from the fact that I was asked if, in my opinion, any conference on the law of the sea in the near future might have a hope of reaching an agreement. I expressed the belief that there was a wide divergence of opinion and considerable conflict of interest on this question, and that agreement could only be reached as a result of compromise. I made no statement which was intended to indicate in any way what Canada's position would be or what Canada might attempt to obtain at any future conference on the law of the sea.

HARBOURS**ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND—REQUEST FOR TABELING OF CORRESPONDENCE ON DEVELOPMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twilligate): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I can ask the Minister of Public Works if it would be possible for him to table the correspondence he has had with Sir Brian Dunfield, Harvey and Company, and with certain other persons in St. John's regarding the harbour development, so that it would be available to hon. members when his estimates are next before the house?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I think it will be possible to table the correspondence.