

Inquiries of the Ministry

to choose a symbol for the world fair, which members of parliament discussed for hours, even weeks, to get nowhere?

[Text]

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I have no fear of that kind.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Prime Minister would accept the following suggestion concerning the national flag; that he himself select a distinctive national flag and hoist it on the peace tower and, on our side, we will recognize this distinctive flag.

[Text]

VETERANS AFFAIRS**POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF HOSPITALS FROM
FEDERAL CONTROL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs because of certain statements made over the week end and headlines in various newspapers indicating that the Department of Veterans Affairs hopes to unload, or intends to unload, certain D.V.A. hospitals on civilian authorities. I have had telephone calls about this; the veterans are very concerned. Will the minister assure the house that there will be every consultation with the veterans organizations on a federal, provincial and local basis before anything of this kind is undertaken?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I can only say that I deplore the kind of headline that was used in the article to which I presume my hon. friend is referring. There is no question of unloading. I did indicate last week that we have had requests from various cities, provincial governments and universities for co-operation in assisting to correct a very difficult situation in the hospitals across Canada. As my hon. friend knows, we have our own particular problems in the administration of these hospitals. With that in view we are discussing these things with these people.

With regard to one discussion that was referred to in the city of Calgary last week, I can assure my hon. friend that representatives of three or four veterans organizations from the city of Calgary were present at those discussions. So we are making sure that the veterans organizations are being consulted, not only nationally but provincially

and locally, when these discussions are taking place. I can also assure my hon. friend that the principles which have been restated many times, the safeguarding of the personnel and, the safeguarding of the welfare and interests of our veterans, as well as the standard of care, will be the considerations we will stick to in arriving at decisions in this matter.

TRANS-CANADA AIR LINES**REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF FRENCH NAME
ON AIRCRAFT**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

Considering that the Minister of Public Works and the Minister without Portfolio stated in Montreal that the words Air Canada should appear on Trans-Canada Air Lines planes and in view of the fact that the decision in this matter is one for the cabinet, when does the government intend to recommend that the words Air Canada be inscribed on the said airplanes?

[Text]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the views of the government on this matter are well known to the house.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS**ALASKA HIGHWAY—CO-OPERATION WITH
U.S. IN PAVING**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the responsible ministers from the treasury benches I wonder whether the Prime Minister would answer this question. On January 20, 1964, bill HR 9667 was introduced in the United States congress, which will have the effect, if passed, of authorizing the United States government to embark upon a joint financial venture for the paving and improving of the Alaska highway.

I wonder if the Prime Minister can say whether it is the intention of his government to introduce similar legislation this session; and if not, whether it is the intention of the government to set up a committee to co-operate and negotiate with the government of the United States in their obvious desire to assist in paving and improving the Alaska highway.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I cannot answer that question, Mr. Speaker. I know that my hon. friend is deeply interested in this matter, as are other hon. members. I will be glad to look into it and see