

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Pickersgill: The undertaking given by the government with respect to the maintenance base in Winnipeg are being carried out and will continue to be carried out.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question?

Will the recommendations made by the commission appointed to look into the possibility of moving the Air Canada maintenance base to Montreal be implemented by Air Canada and the present government?

[English]

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether we are engaging in a debate.

Mr. Knowles: We are trying to get an answer.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

The hon. member put a question and the minister has answered it after a fashion. The hon. member must be content with the answer he got.

[English]

SHIPPING**ST. LAWRENCE RIVER—ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING RESPECTING SAFETY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I would also like to address a question to the Minister of Transport, and I hope I do not receive the same answer he just gave my colleague. Could the minister tell us what progress he is making in arranging for the meeting with the interested parties that he mentioned on February 17 with reference to safety on the St. Lawrence?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Very good progress, sir.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**HAL BANKS—INQUIRY AS TO PROSECUTION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice arising out of an answer he gave recently to the hon. member for Kootenay East in respect of certain documents seized relating to the S.I.U. and the question of whether there will be a further indictable charge laid against Hal Banks. Has an application been made to obtain those

[Mr. Churchill.]

exhibits from the supreme court so they may be examined to see whether another indictable offence can be laid against Hal Banks in view of the recent developments in the United States in respect of that gentleman?

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice): I have already stated that the documents have been released by the supreme court and are now being studied.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Can the minister inform the house whether this matter has been referred to the law officers of the crown in his department or whether it is the intention of the government to retain independent counsel, as was done previously, for the purpose of assessing the evidence?

Mr. Cardin: The investigation is not yet completed.

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN FRANCE AND CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): I wish to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Further to his statement that the Montreal Symphony Orchestra will go ahead as a cultural exchange between France and Canada, is the minister in a position to advise as to what artistic group France will be sending to Canada in exchange?

Mr. Speaker: This question is very important but I doubt whether it is so urgent as to preclude its being put on the order paper.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**DEBATE ON THE ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Loitbinière): I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Public Works in his capacity as house leader. In view of the fact that the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act has been amended so as to extend to 45 days the time allowed to study the objections, does the minister intend to take advantage of that time to introduce, or have an hon. member introduce, a bill to abolish capital punishment?

Could he also tell the house if the meetings between the representatives of each political party have given any results to date?