

TRANSPORT**SUGGESTED REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST INTENTION OF RAILWAYS TO INCREASE POTASH FREIGHT RATES**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Last Wednesday he undertook to inquire from the Canadian Transport Commission whether or not an appeal had been lodged against the proposed freight rate increases on potash. Can he report today whether or not there has been and, if not, will he ask the CTC to review the proposed increases?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): In reply to the first part of the question, Mr. Speaker, I did check and up to this morning there had been no appeals lodged in this connection. I am not at all certain that I have authority to ask them to initiate such an appeal, but there are several avenues open to anyone who may wish to do so.

* * *

• (1450)

POST OFFICE**ESTABLISHMENT BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT OF PRIVATE MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN EDMONTON AND CALGARY**

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Postmaster General, but in his absence perhaps I might direct it to his parliamentary secretary. Can he advise the House whether the Postmaster General has initiated an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the position taken by the provincial government of Alberta in establishing private mail carrier service between the cities of Calgary and Edmonton for government mail?

Mr. Gerald Richard Cobbe (Parliamentary Secretary to Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, the minister is studying the matter and I am sure that when the study is complete the information will be available to the hon. member.

Mr. Mazankowski: Will the parliamentary secretary undertake either to have the information tabled in the House or to have a statement made on motions?

Mr. Cobbe: Mr. Speaker, I will discuss this matter with the minister.

* * *

SUPPLY AND SERVICES**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON ALLEGED INCREASED COST OF DESTROYER ESCORT CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Supply and Services. In light of allegations that the cost of the four ships in the destroyer escort program has now risen to an astronomi-

Inquiries of the Ministry

cal figure of well over \$300 million, more than half as much again as the original estimate, and since it will take one year before the program is completed, would the minister look into this and make a statement in the House as to where the situation now stands?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Defence has already made clear statements on this matter. The DDH program is proceeding within the budgets approved by Treasury Board.

Mr. Baldwin: That is not the way I hear it.

* * *

URBAN AFFAIRS**AGENDA FOR TRI-LEVEL CONFERENCE**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Is it a fact that the agenda of topics to be discussed at the tri-level conference has been determined? If so, would he give the House some indication as to when he intends to table it?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the agenda has been agreed upon and is outlined in the report I tabled at the beginning of this afternoon's session. I would be happy to send the hon. member a copy.

Mr. Alexander: Will the minister say whether or not the representatives of the three levels will be attending the conference as equals?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, they will be attending in accordance with the arrangements agreed upon that are being recommended and are set out in the report I tabled today.

* * *

NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION**INQUIRY AS TO CONTRACT WITH PINKERTON AGENCY RESPECTING SERVICES NOW PERFORMED BY CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Is the minister now in a position to answer my question of May 4 and of May 16 as to whether the National Capital Commission has entered into a contract with the Pinkerton agency, a subsidiary of an American firm, for the provision of services in the national capital area previously provided by the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, apparently the policing of certain National Capital Commission properties is undertaken by arrangement with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who have in the past hired to assist them members of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires. However, this year