

Inquiries of the Ministry

My understanding is that every effort is to be made to complete the plans and designs as quickly as possible and to call for tenders as rapidly as possible in order that at the earliest possible date work will be available on this project.

PROSPECTIVE LAY-OFFS AT POINT EDWARD
NAVAL BASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I might ask the Minister of Labour what success he has had in implementing his undertaking to find employment for the men who are being displaced by the closing of the Point Edward naval base in Cape Breton.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend may know, the reduced program at Point Edward will begin on April 1 and will extend over a period of some months in an effort to correlate the lay-offs with expanding employment opportunities in the future. The national employment service is working closely with the provincial government, and on its own account, to do this job and also to develop any training programs that may be suitable in the circumstances. That is the picture at the moment, and I will be glad later on to advise the house of any further details.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

WELCOME TO MEMBER FOR PROVENCHER ON
RETURN TO HOUSE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Before orders of the day are called, may I be permitted to say I am sure all hon. members will share my own pleasure at the return to the house after three months' absence through illness of the hon. member for Provencher, who is my deskmate.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

AIRPORTS

THE PAS, MAN.—RECONSTRUCTION OF RUNWAYS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of reports that the Department of Transport airport at The Pas, Manitoba, will be closed to aircraft of certain weights and sizes in the very near future due to the poor condition of the runways, can the minister advise the house whether his department has plans to reconstruct these runways and, if so, when this work will be undertaken?

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, that is not a question I could answer without notice, and I will take the hon. gentleman's question as notice.

VANCOUVER—INQUIRY AS TO CONSTRUCTION
OF TERMINAL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I desire to ask a question of the Minister of Transport. I only do so in order to clarify existing confusion. Is the minister in a position to make clear now when he anticipates construction will start on the new international airport terminal in Vancouver?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it just so happens that the representative of the board of trade of Vancouver saw me this morning and put this question to me in the presence of my deputy minister, so I happen to have up to date information.

Mr. Winch: But I was not there and so did not get the information.

Mr. Pickersgill: No; but I thank the hon. gentleman for giving me the opportunity to say that I do know the answer to one question—

Mr. Churchill: You differ from your colleagues.

Mr. Pickersgill: —because I do not pretend to know the answers in detail to most of the questions that might be asked about my department, without inquiry. In this particular case I understand there has to be a good deal of work done on the foundations. Because, as the hon. gentleman well knows, the terrain being what it is, it is very important that before an expensive building is erected there we be sure there is an adequate foundation. The planning is going ahead and everything is being done with the hope that the project will be started before the end of this year and completed in time for the centenary.

TRANS-CANADA AIR LINES

DIXON-SPEAS REPORT—INQUIRY AS TO
PUBLICATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Is a condensed or expurgated version of the Dixon-Speas report about to be published? If so, will it be made public, and in particular will a copy of it be sent to the government of Manitoba?