

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, from where I sit I do not see any restriction on the freedom of the opposition to ask questions.

Mr. Diefenbaker: You are the biggest dictator of all in that connection and you would not know.

Mr. Sharp: May I say that there is no substance whatever to the report that has appeared.

Mr. Muir: You are as dull as usual, Sharp.

Mr. Sharp: The government is not considering transferring any of the responsibilities of the RCMP in the field of security to any other agency.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, will the minister say whether a civilian secret service group has been or is in the process of being set up?

Mr. Sharp: I thought I had answered that question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Just with evasiveness.

Mr. Sharp: There is no substance to the report referred to by the right hon. gentleman. The government has not established such a force and does not intend to do so.

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ATOMIC ENERGY

ENGINEERING ASSESSMENT OF DEUTERIUM PLANT—INQUIRY AS TO REJECTION OF FINDINGS OF DUPONT REPORT

Mr. Murray McBride (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, in view of the announcement this morning by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, does this additional study of the Deuterium of Canada plant by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited at a cost of \$300,000 indicate a rejection of the findings in the Dupont report?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): No, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

POST OFFICE

MONTREAL—ESTABLISHMENT OF CROWN CORPORATION TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT SERVICE

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board.

Since a document issued by his department suggests the establishment of a crown corporation to provide a mail carriage service in Montreal, could the hon. minister advise whether he favours this proposal and whether he will urge the government to create this corporation?

Hon. C. M. Dury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I have not heard this question too clearly,

23786—42

Inquiries of the Ministry

but if it is addressed to me, I can say that the government has considered this proposal and concluded that this solution was not feasible.

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[English]

POLLUTION

THREAT POSED BY TANKER TRANSPORT OF OIL FROM VALDEZ, ALASKA, TO CHERRY POINT, WASHINGTON

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question of vital importance to the province of British Columbia and I should like to direct it to the Minister of Transport. As Atlantic Richfield Oil Company is in the process of building a \$150 million refinery complex at Cherry Point adjacent to the British Columbia border to handle Alaskan oil which will reach the refinery in 125,000 ton oil tankers by a water route, which represents a real pollution threat to Canadian territory, has the minister's department been approached by the United States government regarding the possibility of establishing a tanker route between Valdez, Alaska and Cherry Point in the state of Washington?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. In spite of the hon. gentleman's reference to the fact that this is a very important matter to the province of British Columbia, it does not appear to me to be a matter of extreme urgency. Perhaps the Minister of Transport should be allowed to reply briefly.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, there has been no direct approach made to me of which I am aware, but I will be glad to check to see whether any representations have been made to my officials.

Mr. Harding: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As the refinery construction is in progress before any hearings have been held regarding the trans-Alaskan pipeline syndicate application, in which Canada may be interested, will the minister direct inquiries to the United States to determine whether there is any substance to the report that the refinery complex will be in a position to receive Alaskan north slope oil?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do understand the urgency of this question and I can assure the hon. member that we have the situation under scrutiny. The hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich brought this question up the other day, and I do believe that a very serious problem is involved for the coastal region if in fact these plans proceed.

Mr. Harding: In view of the terrible pollution threat this proposal represents to the whole southwest section of British Columbia's inside passage, would the minister make representations to the United States government to try to stop this project from being constructed in this area?