

Inquiries of the Ministry

said that commonwealth countries would be kept informed, or that he would keep in contact with commonwealth countries as they proceeded in this matter.

Mr. St. Laurent: No communication has yet been received. But in respect to these matters there is a realization by all of us that we are all interested; and I have never had any occasion to feel that any information which would be of interest to us has been withheld.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**DISTANT EARLY WARNING LINE—PRESS COMMENT ON PROGRESS OF CONSTRUCTION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of National Defence. Will the minister comment on a Canadian Press report in a Montreal paper that the United States is far ahead of Canada in the construction of two radar warning lines in the Canadian north, and whether it is in accordance with the present policy of the department?

Hon. R. O. Campney (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I saw the story in question and, like most speculative articles, it is not entirely in accordance with the facts. Since the schedules of completion of both the D.E.W. line and the mid-Canada line naturally cannot be published, it is difficult to compare progress by using specific dates or figures. However, I can say that the D.E.W. line, on which preliminary planning began three years ago and which got going at full speed late in the winter, is making excellent progress. I can also say that the mid-Canada line, on which plans started two years ago, in respect of which the construction phase is now under way, is also fully up to its schedule.

Our mid-Canada construction program is so phased that when the equipment is ready the line will be ready. I might add also that the completion of the mid-Canada line is phased with that of the D.E.W. line.

REPORTED DEVELOPMENT OF RUSSIAN AIR SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on July 4 I directed a question to the Acting Minister of National Defence, which was answered by the Minister of Finance. It related to reports of the fly-past of new types of aircraft in Moscow. On that occasion, when I asked if there was

[Mr. Fulton.]

information that could be given to the house in respect to those aircraft the Minister of Finance replied:

I shall get an answer for my hon. friend at the earliest possible moment.

In view of the fact that the estimates of the Department of National Defence are before the house and that any information which might be available on this subject would be helpful in the resumption of the discussion of those estimates, I would ask if that information can now be given.

Hon. R. O. Campney (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to answer that at the moment. I shall look into the question to see if I can give any information to the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

FERRY SERVICE**REFERENCE TO PRESS REPORTS OF DELAY IN PUTTING "BLUENOSE" IN SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport, notice of which I was unable to give him because I just received this press report from Halifax. Has the minister's attention been drawn to an interview which appeared in yesterday's *Halifax Chronicle-Herald*, in which an official of his department is quoted as saying that a 14-day delay is "an optimistic guess"? The article goes on to say:

We are saying two weeks instead of two months, but we are keeping our fingers crossed.

Will the minister make any comment on that?

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): I would think the press report is entirely without foundation. I am told that my estimate of 14 days is likely to be shorter.

Mr. Fleming: Shorter than what?

Mr. Nowlan: May I ask a supplementary question? Will the minister consider sending the *William Carson* on the run between Yarmouth and Bar Harbor, Maine? I understand she is now cluttering up the harbour of Corner Brook. According to today's *Globe and Mail*, she is incommoding traffic in Corner Brook.

Mr. Pickersgill: The *Globe and Mail* is extraordinarily well-informed about Corner Brook.

Mr. Marler: All I can say is that the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare (Mr. Kirk) mentioned to me the other day the suggestion that the *William Carson* should be