

the alliance with each of the 15 member countries having an equal voice in the control of their use.

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As I understand it, no decision to that effect has been made.

INQUIRY AS TO PURCHASE OF U.S. JET
INTERCEPTORS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William): In the absence of the Minister of National Defence I wish to direct a question to the associate minister. Can the minister inform the house whether the Canadian government has reached an agreement with the United States to purchase jet interceptors in exchange for the United States purchase of Canadian transport planes?

Hon. Pierre Sevigny (Associate Minister of National Defence): In reply to the question put by the hon. member for Fort William may I say that no final agreement has been reached on this matter.

(Translation):

INQUIRY AS TO VISIT OF ASSOCIATE MINISTER
TO WASHINGTON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Azellus Denis (St. Denis): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Associate Minister of National Defence. Does the minister intend to join the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Harkness) in Washington, where important problems are being discussed with the American military authorities?

Hon. Pierre Sevigny (Associate Minister of National Defence): My reply to the question of the hon. member for St. Denis (Mr. Denis) is as follows. I would point out that at the last sitting of the house the Minister of National Defence clearly indicated that he was going to Washington to get acquainted with the defence secretary, Mr. Gates, and other high officials.

Having already met those officials, I do not feel there is any need for me to accompany the Minister of National Defence on his trip, particularly in view of the urgent work requiring my attention here.

(Text):

HUMAN RIGHTS

MAIL CONTRACTORS—ALLEGED PROHIBITION
AGAINST POLITICAL ACTIVITY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to address a question to the Postmaster General. In view of the fact that mail contractors in Canada have been warned to refrain from

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Inquiries of the Ministry

participation in political activity, both federal and provincial; and in view of the fact that these mail contractors are not civil servants, would the minister inform the house of the reason for this limitation of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and if this action is a postal progenitor of a possible proclamation?

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): I believe this is not a question of urgency, and it could be equally well put on the order paper in order to speed up the business of this house as we are all trying to do.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON CARRIAGE OF
MAIL BY PIGGYBACK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Azellus Denis (St. Denis): May I direct a question to the Postmaster General. Will the Postmaster General tell the house about his experiment in the carriage of mail in trucks by the piggyback method from Quebec to Toronto, as reported recently in the newspaper *L'Événement Journal*?

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): It has been very satisfactory.

Mr. Denis: May I ask a supplementary question. Will the minister tell the house how many employees he expects this new service will eliminate from the payroll?

Mr. Speaker: When the hon. member becomes statistical, I think it is time to make use of the order paper.

(Translation):

INQUIRY AS TO INSTRUCTIONS TO NEWSPAPERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Azellus Denis (St. Denis): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Postmaster General (Mr. Hamilton)? Has the minister or have the postal authorities issued orders to the effect that thefts committed in the Post Office Department be withheld from the newspapers?

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Try to be serious.

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): No, Mr. Speaker.

(Text):

HARBOURS

HARBOUR GRACE, NEWFOUNDLAND—REQUEST FOR
RECONSIDERATION OF LIGHTHOUSE REMOVAL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Tucker (Trinity-Conception): May I ask the Minister of Transport if he will reconsider the decision to remove the historic beacon lighthouse at Harbour Grace, Newfoundland?

[read 205-6-3]