

Inquiries of the Ministry

It is a very complicated problem to solve. We are doing everything we can to keep it down to the minimum. However, it does not seem very advisable this year to detain planes as a punishment, because I am afraid those who would be punished would not be the air lines but the passengers, whose reservations would thereby have no validity.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, if I might make an observation in regard to the statement made by the Minister of Transport, it is a terrible thing for a minister of this government to be awakened.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

AIR TRANSPORT**STEPS TO DEAL WITH RESERVATIONS NOT PICKED UP**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I should like to reply to a question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Queens (Mr. MacLean) about "no shows" on Air Canada. Up to now they have not thought they could take advantage of my advice as to how to run the air line.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pickersgill: My feelings are not unduly hurt on that account. However, Air Canada have instituted a system of telephoning a few hours before the flight, everyone who has a reservation. In that way they are getting a great many cancellations that apparently people would not make on their own. I understand they are still giving consideration to the other possibility which I suggested, but there are some very serious difficulties in putting it into operation.

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE**EGGS—PROTEST AGAINST HEAVY IMPORTATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the mass importation of eggs, which is creating disastrous conditions for the farmers, would the minister not have an announcement to make as to a policy that could take care of this severe disadvantage for the agricultural class?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not feel this is a supplementary question.

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Speaker, I should like to rephrase in a more precise way the question I directed a while ago to the minister.

Is the government willing to announce a policy concerning the purchase of eggs, since the agricultural class is suffering from a mass importation of eggs?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Agricultural Stabilization Board is going to announce an egg purchasing policy today.

[English]

UNITED NATIONS**MIDDLE EAST—REACTION OF ISRAEL TO RESOLUTION RESPECTING JERUSALEM**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs what communications have been made by Canada directly to Israel or through our ambassador in respect of the resolution passed by the United Nations, for which Canada voted. This resolution provides that Israel shall desist from its action in annexing Old Jerusalem. What is the reaction of Israel to the resolution that was passed?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, immediately prior to the general assembly vote I had a discussion about this matter with the ambassador of Israel in Ottawa. The foreign minister of Israel had a meeting recently with the secretary general, and Mr. Eban I think today or late last night announced that his government would be making a statement about the matter some time toward the middle of next week, when it is expected that the general assembly will be resuming its session.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister another question in connection with the refugees. Has Canada made any offer, directly or indirectly, to the United Nations, to any of the Arab states or to Israel as to the number of refugees Canada would be prepared to absorb if they were able to come to this country?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, it is not possible for me to go beyond the statement made in that connection by the Prime Minister about ten days ago.