

Supply—External Affairs

[Text]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): I, of course, do not carry in my head all the details of the plans of the C.B.C., but I shall be glad to inquire and inform the hon. gentleman and the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam as well, who would obviously be greatly interested in this question.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Balcer: As a supplementary question, may I ask the minister if he will give us his opinion on the suggestion of Mr. Lesage?

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I think that would be a clear violation of the rules.

INDUSTRY**HEAVY WATER PLANT—INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT DECISION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, but as he is absent I will direct it to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the current issue of *Time* magazine carries a detailed report on the developments relating to the government's decision on heavy water, and contains information that some of us have been trying to get for some time; and in view of the fact that the tender deadline date for the heavy water project was May 31 last, could the Acting Prime Minister inform the house when the government is going to be able to give some information relating to its decision on this vital project?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to reply to this question today. I doubt that a decision has been taken. In any event, I shall be glad to draw the question to the attention of my colleague who, as the hon. member knows, is at the conference at this time.

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the Acting Prime Minister not think that the hour of decision is at hand on this matter?

Mr. Chevrier: The answer to that question is probably yes.

TRANSPORT**CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES BEFORE DECISIONS REACHED**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Leon Balcer (Three Rivers): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister tell us whether he has made any arrangements to meet with Premier Lesage while Mr. Lesage is in Ottawa, to discuss with him the suggestion of the premier that no decision respecting transport should be taken without previous consultation with the provinces?

INDIAN AFFAIRS**BRITISH COLUMBIA—INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF LIAISON COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): In the absence of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration I would like to direct this question to the acting minister. Did the government or the minister make a commitment to one Mr. Henry Castilou of British Columbia to the effect that there would be an Indian liaison committee appointed consisting of parliamentarians and advisers for the purpose of making annual visits to the various Indian villages in British Columbia?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Acting Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): I really cannot say, but I will ask the minister to reply.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I should like to direct a question to the genial Secretary of State for External Affairs and ask him whether, in view of the fact we have in the diplomatic gallery two distinguished gentlemen from British Columbia, namely the premier and the minister of health, the government of Canada looks upon that province as being a friendly power?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, may I reply to that question by saying that I am sure we are all pleased to see the premier of British Columbia and other premiers in the gallery today. I understand there are several premiers present in the gallery but I only see Premier Bennett and Premier Smallwood, and if I do not mention the others it is simply because I do not see them.

In answer to the hon. gentleman's question I want to say this government seeks to conduct the public business in such a manner as to enjoy the happiest relations with all the provinces.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Lamoureux in the chair.