

asking him a question. According to a Canadian Press dispatch dated August 10, Premier Robert Stanfield of Nova Scotia welcomed 14 British and United States "thinkers" at the opening of a conference, called by Cyrus Eaton, at Pugwash, Nova Scotia.

Can the minister inform the house if any "thinkers" from his department received an invitation to attend, or are any of his departmental "thinkers" attending as observers at this conference?

Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I would urge the hon. member not to be too worried about disturbing my equanimity on a Monday morning. With respect to this conference, I can say that we have no knowledge of the holding of the conference, and therefore we have not received in the department any invitation for any representative of the department to attend. Now, there is nothing in this reply, Mr. Speaker, that could be taken to suggest or imply that there are no "thinkers" in the Department of External Affairs.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

ESKIMOS—STATEMENT ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY R.C.A.F.

On the orders of the day:

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, on Saturday last the hon. member for Mackenzie River asked if the R.C.A.F. had made any report with regard to the starvation of Eskimos at Garry lake.

I am now informed that following a request received from the R.C.M.P. on May 30, an R.C.A.F. Dakota based at Winnipeg airlifted a doctor from Fort Churchill to Baker Lake southeast of Garry lake. Subsequently this aircraft transported some 50 surviving natives from Garry lake to Baker Lake. The operation was completed on June 2. The R.C.A.F. also brought out some of the bodies from Garry lake to Baker Lake so the doctor could perform autopsies in an effort to ascertain the cause of death of the 16 Eskimos.

Mr. M. A. Hardie (Mackenzie River): As a supplementary question, may I ask if the minister has a report, not of the events taking place from May 30 up to sometime in June, but with regard to a trip the R.C.A.F. made on March 22 to Garry lake?

Mr. Pearkes: No, I have no report on that.

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House of Commons

INQUIRY FOR RETURN

BEAM STATION ROAD, TERRACE AIRPORT, B.C.

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): On Saturday the hon. member for Skeena asked me if I could give some information regarding a motion for the production of papers which was passed on July 7 concerning the beam station road. Since correspondence with the provincial government of British Columbia was involved, among other things, we wrote to that government after the motion was passed asking their concurrence in the tabling of this portion of the correspondence. No reply having been received, we have now sent a further follow-up letter asking for a reply. This, however, is the reason for the delay in the production of papers.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MOTION TO APPROVE INSTALLATION OF SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION SYSTEM

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister) moved:

That this house do approve the installation of a simultaneous translation system in this chamber and that Mr. Speaker be authorized to make arrangements necessary to instal and operate it.

He said: For quite a number of years, Mr. Speaker, from time to time there have been representations made on behalf of the establishment in this chamber of a simultaneous translation system. This goes back some years, and I recall that in 1952 or 1953 there were rumours, which apparently had a sound basis, that consideration was being given to action in this regard. However, nothing was done during the intervening years, though on more than one occasion various members advocated the necessity of the establishment of such a system, to the end that members in the house would be able to follow and understand everything that was being said by the member who, at the moment was speaking. As you will recall, on November 25, 1957, the then hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm moved:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should take into consideration the advisability of setting up a special committee of parliament for the purpose of considering the establishment of a system of simultaneous translation—

Various hon. members spoke on that occasion. The essence of the motion was that a committee of parliament give consideration to the establishment of the system in question.

As all hon. members know, simultaneous translation has been in effect in the United