

Inquiries of the Ministry

member is asking if they do not operate from United States bases on Canadian soil, and I say not the spy type of plane. Of course the planes doing meteorological and radiation work would fly from the United States. As I pointed out, this is not the type of plane that was over Russia. I explained that these planes have United States air force markings and they are operated by United States air force personnel. This was not the case with the plane that was over Russia.

Mr. Argue: Did they operate from United States bases within Canada?

Mr. Green: Any such business conducted by these planes is legitimate business, meteorological and radiation work.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**LONDON, ONTARIO—TRANSFER OF CAR SHOPS
TO MONTREAL**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport concerning a question which I put to him last Friday, at which time he undertook to persuade the president of the Canadian National Railways to discuss with the mayor of London and members of the council of railroad workers the desirability of a conference to see whether a change could not be made in the decision taken by the railway to move the Canadian National car shops from London. I have had a telegram from London again, and I should like to have an answer from the minister.

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): When I was replying to the hon. member a few days ago in connection with this matter I simply told him that I would pass along his remarks to the president of the Canadian National Railways, which I have done. I should like to let him know, and the house know, that long before the hon. member for Essex East took any interest whatever in this matter, the hon. member for London brought this question to my attention. He has spoken to me a great deal about it, and takes a great deal of interest in the welfare of his constituents. He has made me thoroughly familiar with the situation in London, just as all Conservative members take an interest in their constituencies and do not need the assistance of those from other constituencies.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): May I ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Hees: If I may go on to finish the answer to the first question, Mr. Speaker, I should like also to say that I was very

interested to read in the Daily Report of the Canadian National Railways, dated May 11, that in a speech the hon. member made to the southwestern Ontario Liberal association in London a few days ago he had urged the Conservative government to exert its influence, without interfering in Canadian National operations—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The minister seems to have misconceived the question.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): May I ask a supplementary question of the minister. Will he seek to indicate to the president of the Canadian National Railways that there can be no excuse for not meeting and conferring with the chief magistrate of London and the workers concerned, to see whether this very important source of employment can be kept in London. Surely it is not asking too much of the minister—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has made his point, and I hope he will not proceed to argue it.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): I rise on a point of order in connection with the answer the minister has given, because I am sure he did not want to convey the impression which he did give. I understood from his answer, as I have understood from the answer of several ministers in the house, that it seems not to be the business of members of parliament to interfere in the constituencies of other members. I think, sir, on a question of privilege as well as on a question of order, that it should be clearly understood that a member of parliament does have a right to ask questions concerning matters in another constituency, even though he happens not to be the member for that constituency.

I say this with deference, because it has happened repeatedly that ministers of the crown have risen to take objection, and I protest because I say we have a clear right to do what we are doing now.

Mr. Hees: May I speak to the point of order? I have never claimed that it is not the right of a member of parliament to bring up matters in other ridings. I was saying that in ridings represented by Conservatives that is not necessary.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member wish to speak to the point of order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): No, I want to ask the minister to answer my question.