

Inquiries of the Ministry

ST. HUBERT, QUE.—POSSIBLE USE AS CIVILIAN AIRPORT

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Associate Minister of National Defence.

Could the minister tell us if his department intends to use the St. Hubert air force base as a civil airport?

If such is the government's intention, when will the base be made available for public use?

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I think this question should be put on the order paper.

[Text]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

TORONTO, ONT.—DENIAL OF BENEFITS TO STRIKING NEWSPAPER EMPLOYEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Labour. Can the parliamentary secretary inform the house whether the unemployment insurance commission has now ruled as to whether the I.T.U. strikers in Toronto are eligible for unemployment insurance?

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. member for Danforth I would say I have been informed by the chairman of the unemployment insurance commission that this matter is being actively studied. First they must determine whether the industry has returned to 80 per cent of normal operation; then it must be determined whether the relevant section of the act applies in this case. There will be some definitive action by the middle of this week.

Mr. Scott: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. This is the story we have been getting for three weeks from this department. When are we going to get some action in this matter? What is the unemployment insurance commission doing to ascertain whether 80 per cent of production has been restored? Frankly, we are fed up with this evasion.

Mr. Byrne: Mr. Speaker, whether or not my hon. friend is fed up is irrelevant.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

[Mr. Hellyer.]

Mr. Byrne: Active consideration is taking place and a study is being made to determine whether the industry is back to 80 per cent of normal operation, and then as to whether the act applies in this case. This will be determined by the middle of the week.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, could I ask the parliamentary secretary why it takes three weeks to make an investigation which any normal commission, with fairly competent people, could make in five days?

Mr. Scott: Mr. Speaker, I want to give notice of my intention to raise this question at 10.30.

FARM IMPROVEMENT LOANS ACT

AMENDMENTS INCREASING LOAN MAXIMUM, AGGREGATE OF GUARANTEED LOANS, ETC.

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Farm Improvement Loans Act to increase from \$7,500 to \$15,000 the maximum amount of any loan that may be made under the act to a borrower together with any amount owing in respect of other guaranteed farm improvement loans, to increase from \$400,000,000 to \$500,000,000 the aggregate principal amount of guaranteed loans that may be made in the three year loan period ending June 30, 1965, to provide for a further three year loan period ending June 30, 1968, and to provide that the aggregate principal amount of guaranteed loans that may be made in that period shall not exceed \$700,000,000.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Batten in the chair.

Mr. Pennell: Mr. Chairman, this resolution foreshadows proposed amendments to the Farm Improvement Loans Act which will raise from \$7,500 to \$15,000 the maximum guaranteed loan amount which a farmer may have outstanding, and will also effect appropriate extensions of the government's guarantee to enable farmers generally to continue to borrow under the act at the same or at an even higher rate than that experienced in recent years. To this end the maximum aggregate amount of loans that may be made under the government guarantee during the current three year lending period, which expires at the end of next June, would be raised from \$400 million to \$500 million and there would be added a new lending period, from July 1, 1965 to June 30, 1968. During this new period the government guarantee would apply to an aggregate maximum volume of guaranteed loans of \$700 million.