

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Justice Landreville which mentions or deals with the question of a pension?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I have had no correspondence with Mr. Justice Landreville, and I do not think any member of the government has since I have assumed office as Minister of Justice. There has been some correspondence over the past months—

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): When did the minister get the letter of resignation?

Mr. Trudeau: I must say I have seen no correspondence wherein the question of pension is raised by any member of the government.

TRADE

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF SITUATION RESPECTING ISRAEL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Was the head of the Export Credits Insurance Corporation speaking on behalf of the government when he issued a statement to the effect that Israel will be unable to pay its debts to Canada?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): No, sir, no such statement was authorized. Mr. Aitken, president of the Export Credits Insurance Corporation, did make a reply in response to a question, but I do not think it was in that vein.

Mr. Nesbitt: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister look into exactly what was said and, if what was alleged is true, have Mr. Aitken either retract or correct his statement, which is very damaging to Israel?

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce on the same subject but put in a different way, and ask him whether in view of some misunderstanding which has arisen because of a statement made by Mr. Aitken, to which the hon. member for Oxford has referred, the minister would clarify Canada's policy regarding trade with Israel.

Mr. Winters: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his intention to ask the question. I will be very glad to reply. For some years the Canadian government, in view of the unsettled situation in the Middle East, has exercised caution in author-

[Mr. Brewin.]

izing exports of military equipment to countries in that area. Some exports of parts for non-combat piston aircraft and non-combat vehicles received authorization after careful consideration.

On receiving word of the outbreak of hostilities on June 5, the government acted promptly to stop any shipments of military equipment from Canada to the countries reportedly involved. No action has been taken to impose new export controls on ordinary commercial transactions in non-military goods. The shipment of non-military goods is presently at the discretion of shippers and is subject to the availability of transportation. No change has been made in Canada's trade relations with countries in the area.

Some steamship lines that serve the Middle East are rerouting their ships to avoid the Suez canal. Some are not presently accepting cargo for eastern Mediterranean and Arabian ports. The services of the trade commissioner posts in the area remain available to Canadian exporters. There may, however, be some delays, which I think is understandable, in servicing business inquiries, resulting from the present situation.

Mr. Lewis: Would the minister clarify the situation further with regard to one point? Will exports to Israel or any other Middle East country remain eligible for insurance under the Export Credits Insurance Corporation?

Mr. Winters: Yes, on the question of eligibility. But they will have to be examined in the light of existing risks, as are all other applications for credit.

TRANSPORTATION

PROCLAMATION OF LEGISLATION RESPECTING RAIL LINE ABANDONMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Last Thursday, Mr. Speaker, I asked a question of the Acting Minister of Transport, who indicated that the minister would be replying upon his return. I wonder if the minister can now inform the house when part I of the new transportation act will be proclaimed, so that western communities might be provided with protection under its terms in connection with railway line abandonment procedures.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I cannot say. I indicated quite recently that I was not in a position to say when part I would be proclaimed. I did indicate quite