

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, but in his absence I shall direct it to the cabinet representative from Nova Scotia. Is he in a position today to provide any information or can he announce an extension of subventions on Nova Scotia coal for use by the Ontario hydro commission, as was suggested in yesterday's *Halifax Chronicle-Herald*?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): No, Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to make any statement. I shall be glad to discuss the matter with the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, and possibly he will be able to provide a definite answer later.

TRADE**GATT—PROTESTS RESPECTING CANADA-U.S. AUTOMOBILE AGREEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Is he aware of any protests to GATT concerning the elimination of the tariff on cars under the Canada-U.S. pact?

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hales: As a supplementary question, has the government given the Canadian officials at GATT instructions to agree to have this tariff elimination made available to other countries such as Great Britain and West Germany?

Mr. Gordon: No, Mr. Speaker.

INQUIRIES OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John N. Turner (St. Lawrence-St. George): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether in the absence of the Prime Minister I could put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Could the minister assure the house that contrary to recent press reports the proposed opting out legislation will not result in the balkanization of the Conservative party?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Ask Hal Banks about it.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that question obviously should be put on the order paper.

Mr. William Dean Howe (Hamilton South): I have a question for the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact that the Toronto city [Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria).]

council is to provide free birth control information to those who request it, is the government considering prosecution of the Toronto city council for violation of section 150 of the Criminal Code?

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is a question for the order paper.

AIR CANADA**WINNIPEG MAINTENANCE BASE—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Transport a question affecting the prosperity of the city of Winnipeg. Has the Thompson commission of inquiry with regard to the Air Canada maintenance base at Winnipeg completed its report and, if it has not, when it is completed will that document be made public?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): The inquiry, as the press has reported—and that is the only report I have—is still going on, and there are to be public hearings in April in the city of Montreal at the request of interested parties. I would hope that fairly soon afterward Mr. Thompson will be able to give his attention to preparing a report, and I would be astonished if it were not made public.

Mr. Churchill: In the interim, while the report is being compiled, can the Minister of Transport give an assurance to this house that there will be no transfer of personnel from the Air Canada maintenance base in Winnipeg to the city of Montreal?

Mr. Pickersgill: No, sir, I cannot; and of course as the hon. gentleman, an experienced privy councillor and a former member of the government, knows, Air Canada is a crown corporation which is operated by its own management and not by the government. I believe, however, there are certain collective agreements between the company and its employees which have to be adhered to.

Mr. Churchill: Is the minister aware that his colleague the former minister of transport gave an assurance a year ago that there would be no transfers of personnel from Winnipeg to Montreal until the inquiry had been completed?

Mr. Pickersgill: I understand that the company gave to my colleague an assurance that there would be no transfers except those re-