

Inquiries of the Ministry

made to rebuild Minto armouries or is consideration being given to vacating the present site and build an armoury elsewhere in the greater Winnipeg area?

Mr. P. T. Hellyer (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, army headquarters has received the report of the board of officers inquiring into the fire at the Minto armoury on January 22 last.

The fire was apparently caused by an unextinguished cigarette or other smoker's ash which ignited a chesterfield in the sergeant's mess. The preliminary estimate of the cost of restoring the building to its original condition is \$470,000; the loss of public stores and equipment is estimated at \$50,000; but no estimate has yet been made of the loss of non-public stores and equipment.

The present intention is to restore the armoury to full use. A civilian consultant firm in Winnipeg has been engaged to report on the extent of the work required for this purpose. It will, however, be some time before this report is received and final arrangements made.

Mr. Churchill: May I ask a further question of the parliamentary assistant? Is he now prepared to give a report to the house with regard to the accident that occurred to four R.C.A.F. planes in Europe about two weeks ago?

Mr. Hellyer: I am not prepared to make a report. The air force officials have received a report which indicated that this extremely unfortunate accident took place during aerobatic practice. There is little that I can add to what has already been made public on the subject.

AIR TRANSPORT**REPORTED BANNING OF JET AIRCRAFT FROM SPACE USED BY ORDINARY AIR TRAFFIC**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John B. Hamilton (York West): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister inform the house whether jet aircraft on speed runs have been banned from the air space used by regular traffic as reported in the press yesterday?

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): I shall take my hon. friend's question as notice and give him an answer when I am in a position to do so.

[Mr. Churchill.]

TRANSPORT**FERRY "BLUENOSE"—INQUIRY AS TO RESUMPTION OF SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Can he tell the house whether the *Bluenose* is in operation?

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare and the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings, representing six counties in all, have, I know, a great interest in the subject of the *Bluenose*. I can merely say what I said to the hon. gentleman the other day, that as soon as I am in a position to make a statement with respect to when operations are to be resumed I shall make it.

An hon. Member: Who knows?

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**PROCEDURE IN ASKING QUESTIONS ON ORDERS OF THE DAY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Speaker: Are there any other questions? If not, may I say this. I want hon. members to be quite at ease. I am not relating any remarks I am going to make now to any of the hon. members who have asked questions today. I am speaking generally.

I want to tell hon. members that I think that between their conception of what should be asked at question time and mine there is now such a wide difference that I am afraid we are not pulling in the same direction. I think it is well for me to establish the position which I consider is the one which is now in force. I will not quote all these citations but I will refer hon. members to the following ones in Beauchesne's third edition: 137, 140, 295, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310 and 311; also to Bourinot's fourth edition, pages 310 to 315. I know that hon. members will read those quotations at the first opportunity and will govern themselves accordingly. But for the purpose of my argument today I should like hon. members to bear with me when I read citation 140 which is as follows:

140. A question which could be inserted on the order paper is not allowed on the orders of the day being called.

Then citation 297:

297. A certain number of oral questions are permitted in practice by members, without notice, before the orders of the day are called; but these are merely allowed by courtesy in connection with the business of the house or with very urgent and important matters of public concern. They are