

The CHAIRMAN: I think that is just an opinion you are expressing

Mr. HARDIE: No. I have the answer I want. The Minister of Northern Affairs is still dreaming.

Mr. DUMAS: Members of this committee asked if you were employing commercial aircraft on the work which you are performing every summer. You are. Is it based on a monthly rate or on a daily rate and do you call tenders.

Dr. HARRISON: According to the air transport board regulations the companies must file their tariff, whether it is on a monthly, a weekly or a mileage basis, with the air transport board. This information is available from the air transport board for any company in any locality in Canada. We do not call tenders in the ordinary sense of the word. We know their rates and we simply try to determine the suitability and availability of their aircraft in the area of our work

Mr. NIELSEN: The tenders for these aircraft could be called within their tariff, but the further you get from the sites of operations the more ferrying charges you have. Might I ask whether this department has been concerned with any investigations in the Arctic islands concerning the taking up of oil leases about which we have heard quite a bit in the last few days?

Dr. HARRISON: As you know, the actual leasing is not our function.

Mr. NIELSEN: The investigations.

Dr. HARRISON: In 1955 we mounted operation Franklin which mapped a large area in the Arctic of about 120 thousand square miles in reconnaissance fashion. As a result of that investigation certain areas within the Arctic islands could be designated reasonably as places for accumulation of petroleum. It is largely in these regions that the oil companies are now currently requesting concessions.

Mr. NIELSEN: When was this information garnered by the department released?

Dr. HARRISON: It has not been released yet in final form. It has been released in general publication. The basic data are available in the fourth edition of the Geology and Economic Minerals of Canada which was published a little over a year ago.

Mr. NIELSEN: So the information basically was available about a year ago?

Dr. HARRISON: Yes.

Mr. NIELSEN: Has any geological survey as such been taken in these Arctic islands for the specific purpose of determining the location of oil or gas?

Dr. HARRISON: No. That is not our function.

Mr. NIELSEN: Are there any maps of this area available to oil and gas companies?

Dr. HARRISON: Generalized maps. More detailed maps are not yet available. They are undergoing final preparation at the moment and should be turned over to the drafting unit within a matter of two or three weeks.

Mr. NIELSEN: When do you expect the maps might be available?

Dr. HARRISON: I would hate to hazard a guess. Not before two and a half or three months.

Mr. NIELSEN: Apropos of Mr. Hardie's question a moment ago, would I be incorrect in saying there are methods other than drilling for determining with relative accuracy the ore extent and ore content of any particular area? Are there any scientific calculations which can be made by surface measurements and so on?