

Inquiries of the Ministry

The Harvard was crossing the airway along which the T.C.A. aircraft was flying, and existing regulations require height separations at intervals of 500 feet in such circumstances.

The T.C.A. aircraft, in altering course to the right and avoiding passing over or under the Harvard, complied with the air regulations.

It is of course essential that air regulations be maintained constantly up to date and adequate to keep pace with the rapid progress of aviation. To this end the responsible departments of government and the civil agencies concerned will continue to utilize the information obtained from this and all such incidents to determine what further improvements, if any, to air regulations may be required in the interests of safety.

Mr. Coldwell: May I ask a supplementary question? Is 500 feet the distance laid down by international regulations or by our own regulations?

Mr. Marler: By our own regulations.

Mr. Coldwell: Does the minister consider 500 feet to be enough if the weather is not good?

Mr. Marler: I consider that 500 feet is quite adequate having regard to the conditions of visibility that were referred to in this instance.

Mr. Coldwell: Under that condition, but what about other conditions?

ATOMIC ENERGY

INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE EXPERIMENTAL PLANTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George H. Hees (Broadview): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Will the minister advise the house whether the government has any plans for Canadian industry similar to those announced by the United States government in Washington yesterday in order to help private industry develop and operate experimental atomic power plants?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited has been carrying out a plan similar to that announced in the United States. At the moment some six or eight private industries in Canada have been invited to submit proposals for a joint project of the type mentioned in the article, and it is expected that those proposals will have been submitted by early February. When they are received it is hoped that a joint

operation can be carried out between the Chalk River establishment and the selected private firm.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

THEFT OF CHEQUES IN ROWLEY DISTRICT—
INQUIRY AS TO PAYMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Victor Quelch (Acadia): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is he in a position to say whether the farmers of the Rowley district, whose wheat board cheques, according to a press dispatch, were stolen en route to their destination, will have new cheques issued to them in the near future?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): In reply to this question, under date of January 7 the Canadian wheat board issued a press release announcing that certain cheques due producers at Rowley had not been received by the payees. The disappearance of the cheques is under investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The statement goes on to say that several of the cheques have been illegally cashed which would suggest that forgeries have taken place.

In circumstances such as these it is the practice to have the payees sign an affidavit that the cheques have not been received. The wheat board will undertake the necessary steps towards the replacement of the cheques as soon as possible.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

INQUIRY AS TO CESSATION OF LAY-OFFS AND REINSTATEMENT OF THOSE ALREADY LAID OFF

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport? Can the minister give the assurance that we are at the end of lay-offs by the Canadian National Railways? Can he say how soon those laid off in recent months will be reinstated?

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): I am afraid I shall have to accept the question of the hon. member as notice and attempt to reply at a later date.

TRADE

VISIT OF CERTAIN MINISTERS TO WASHINGTON—
UNITED STATES POLICY RE QUOTAS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is he in a position