

Inquiries of the Ministry

PUBLIC SERVICE

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON
BILINGUALISM—REQUEST FOR
STATEMENT

all of them have problems that are not dissimilar from that of TransAir. The suggestion of the right hon. gentleman will certainly be taken into account in that consideration.

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister inform the house where and when this public hearing will take place?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I would have to inquire of the Air Transport Board before I can do that. I will be glad to do that unless the hon. gentleman would prefer to do it himself.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF ROADS TO
RESOURCES PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. I directed a question to him on February 18 which he said he would like to take as notice. My question asked the Prime Minister whether the government had given any further consideration to the possibility of extending or re-establishing the roads to resources program. I am wondering whether he could now answer the question.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, I myself have become very interested in this. A few days ago I received a report on the present state of the roads to resources program, and I will be submitting recommendations to cabinet very soon.

SHIPPING

DELAY IN ISSUING PERMITS TO
U.S.S.R. VESSELS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the minister seen press reports alleging that permits for U.S.S.R. vessels passing through the St. Lawrence Seaway have been subjected to unnecessary delay? I am wondering whether Canada has authorized the movement of these ships through this international waterway in the usual manner?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not think there has been any unnecessary delay. The applications are being considered and I hope there will be a decision made very soon.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a two-part question to the Prime Minister on the subject of bilingualism in the public service. I wonder whether the Prime Minister could let the house know approximately when he will be making his statement on the subject.

The second part of my question is: Can the Prime Minister tell the house whether the interdepartmental committee studying this subject has received a report from the royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism on the subject of bilingualism in the public service?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I had expected to meet last Friday with my colleagues and representatives of the civil service organizations, at which meeting we were going to discuss some points arising out of the interdepartmental report, as well as our own views on this matter. Unfortunately, because of developments in the house we had to postpone that meeting, but we expect to have it very shortly. After that meeting I expect to be in a position to make a fairly complete statement to the house on this very important matter.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

RE-ENLISTMENT BONUS FOR FORMER
PERSONNEL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence or the Associate Minister. Would either minister, or both, consider requests by former servicemen who are now thinking of returning to the services that the re-enlistment bonus should apply to them, having in mind that they have already undergone considerable basic training and the taxpayers would have the advantage of such a saving?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): This question was raised at the time the bonus was announced, Mr. Speaker. These things were not included in the proposal. The question is being reconsidered and studied. I am afraid I cannot at this time give my hon. friend any indication of what the outcome would be.