

2. The Prime Minister in his reply of June 21 noted that the government was giving consideration to the question of a Canadian conference on human rights in 1968, but that no decision had yet been made and no planning committee established. He offered the assurance that should such a committee be established the interest of women in this subject would be fully taken into account.

*ESCROW ACCOUNT, WORLD WIDE AIRWAYS

Question No. 1,758—**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):**

1. Were certain funds held in escrow by the Air Transport Board for World Wide Airways on special overseas passenger flights and, if so, what disposal has been made of said monies?

2. Were employees of World Wide Airways paid their full salaries prior to disposal of said monies and, if not, for what reason?

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): The Air Transport Board advises as follows:

1. Funds were not held in escrow by the Air Transport Board. At the direction of the Air Transport Board World Wide Airways Inc. were required to deposit in an escrow account with the Bank of Montreal 50 per cent of all advance payments received from international charter groups. On completion of each portion of the charter the company was permitted to transfer from the escrow account into its general funds account 50 per cent of the original deposits.

On August 12, 1965, because World Wide Airways Inc. was unable financially to complete its outstanding charter commitments its licence was suspended and arrangements were made with Nordair Limited to complete these flight. All funds in escrow account to which World Wide had entitlement were paid to that company. Subsequently the funds remaining in the escrow account were transferred to Nordair as partial payment of its costs in completing the World-Wide charters.

2. The Air Transport Board does not have information relating to the settlement of outstanding salaries. The escrow account was established purely to protect the travelling public from failure of the carrier to perform flights for which payment was made in advance of services rendered.

Questions

C.N.R. COASTAL BOATS UNDER CHARTER

Question No. 1,762—**Mr. Douglas:**

1. Has the Canadian National Railway any boats under charter and engaged in coastal trade on the east coast and, if so, how many such boats are under charter?

2. Has the Canadian National Railway any boats under charter and engaged in coastal trade on the west coast and, if so, how many such boats are under charter?

3. Has the Canadian National Railway any plans for increasing its own fleet of coastal boats?

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): 1. Yes, in the Cabot strait and Newfoundland coastal service. The vessels are on a trip to trip charter and the number varies according to freight commitments which exceed what the railway operated boats can handle. During 1966, the number of boats under charter has ranged from three to fifteen.

2. No.

3. No. However, the federal government has under construction three ferries for subsequent service on the east coast.

DROUGHT AID, OTTAWA VALLEY FARMERS

Question No. 1,767—**Mr. Horner (Acadia):**

1. What was the total amount of money spent by the federal government in 1965 in aid of drought-stricken farmers in the Ottawa Valley?

2. How much money was spent in the specific effort of trying to make rain and did these efforts produce any rain?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture):

1. The provinces of Quebec and Ontario are not required under the terms of the agreements, with respect to special cost shared crop loss assistance programs, to provide a breakdown of payments to farmers by areas and final costs of these programs will not be known until the provinces complete the redemption of coupons provided to farmers to secure feed and fodder requirements from suppliers.

During the fiscal year 1965-1966, the province of Ontario presented claims for, and was paid, \$3,322,829. The province of Quebec presented claims for and was paid \$2,726,902. In addition, the government of Canada made direct payments to some 7,050 Quebec farmers totalling \$988,795.

Provincial claims for reimbursement continue to be paid as they are received from the provinces concerned and as funds are available.