

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

harbours board on the various locations that were studied, and second, whether he would ask the national harbours board to hear representations from interested persons before any final decision is made.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think there will be any problem in acceding to the second request right away. I will ask the chairman of the national harbours board to receive anyone who has any proper representation to make; I will be very glad to do that. As to the first request, I think the hon. member will realize that I would have to look into that matter before I could give a reply. I do not think I will be able to give a reply until Monday, because I would like to talk to the chairman of the board and I believe he is in Vancouver.

PRINCE RUPERT, B.C.—INQUIRY AS TO PLANS  
FOR DEVELOPMENT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he has yet concluded the very careful consideration that he is giving to grain elevators.

**Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture):** Almost, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport and ask whether he has any plans for the over-all port development of Prince Rupert, inasmuch as we can only get the consideration of the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I have not any right in my head, but I could perhaps make some in half an hour if the hon. gentleman would come and see me.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADIAN MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATION  
OF AMERICAN STATES

[Translation]

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

Could he confirm or deny the report from Brazil to the effect that Canada has asked to join the O.A.S.?

[Mr. Douglas.]

[Text]

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether I am in order in commenting on newspaper reports at this time, but if the report referred to by my hon. friend is the same as the one I read it has no foundation in fact.

[Translation]

**Mr. Caouette:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Even if, as he says, this report has no foundation, could the Prime Minister tell the house whether the government intends to approach the American states or Brazil to this end?

[Text]

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure my hon. friend knows that this is a matter which has been under consideration for a considerable time and is under consideration at present.

CONGO—EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF  
CANADIAN HOSTAGES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs based on a report in this morning's *Le Devoir* to the effect that the special envoy of the Canadian government, Mr. Robert Thompson, has now left Addis Ababa for Paris without apparently being able to effect the release of the Canadian hostages held in the Congo. It is further reported that Emperor Haile Selassie has expressed his uneasiness with regard to the condition of the hostages, and I ask the minister whether he has any report to make to the house.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** This, of course, is a matter I could deal with later today, Mr. Speaker, but I should say that the United States government has expressed gratitude for the efforts of the hon. gentleman in question.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** As a supplementary question, could the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell us whether the Canadian government has received any information with regard to the safety of these hostages, so that the Canadian government may be equally grateful?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government is equally grateful; and I must say that the situation in Stanleyville, as my hon. friend knows, is of the