

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this question. There does seem to be some misunderstanding about the situation.

TransAir have asked to be allowed to discontinue certain services in the prairie provinces. In the case of one service, from Yorkton to Saskatoon, that appeared to the Air Transport Board to be so clear cut that they permitted the service to be discontinued. I think perhaps it has already been discontinued, although I have not checked.

With respect to the rest, the board has prescribed that there shall be public hearings and that all the other services must continue until these public hearings have been held and the board has given a decision on the application. Therefore, in so far as any of the services of TransAir now being performed are concerned, they will go on indefinitely until the public hearings have been held and the board has made a decision. Of course what that decision will be it would be wrong for me to attempt at this stage to forecast.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Thank you. I should like to ask a supplementary question. Has the minister knowledge as to when these sittings will begin? Is there any definiteness at this time, so that the people in those places, particularly the chambers of commerce and the interested travel community may have some information about this?

Mr. Pickersgill: I am speaking from recollection but I think my recollection is right, and I understand that the board has invited any persons who wish to appear at the hearing to inform the Board before April 1. The hearings are scheduled, I think, for April 16 or thereabouts. I presume they will take some days.

It may be that this information is not too widely known. I imagine that the board would feel, if there were a number of people who would want to make representations but who would not have had time to do so by April 1, it would be open to people in such a position to ask the board for a small extension of time.

Mr. K. H. More (Regina City): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Minister of Transport if hearings will be held in Regina?

Mr. Pickersgill: I am not absolutely sure whether the hearings are to be in Regina or Winnipeg, though I think they are to be in Regina. I could find out definitely.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

[Translation]

MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS**NORTHWESTERN QUEBEC—ASSISTANCE TO GOLD MINES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys.

To follow up a request I made in the house the other day, has the minister talked with officials of the Quebec Department of Mines about subsidies granted to gold mines in northwestern Quebec?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): I was asked the other day to call an important official in Quebec city. I did, but unfortunately the man I was calling was out. He is supposed to call me back any time now.

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS**GRANT TO AID CANNERY ON QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources may I ask the right hon. Prime Minister whether he can now advise what his government proposes to do to assist some 1,400 people, mostly natives, who are severely affected by the closing of the Masset cannery on the Queen Charlotte islands in British Columbia?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to take notice of that question. I believe it has been brought up in the house already this week, but I shall look into it.

Mr. Chatterton: As a supplementary question, when the matter is being looked into would the government consider using some part of the \$112 million program announced by the minister last Thursday to assist the Haida Indians on those islands?

Mr. Pearson: I shall discuss that matter with the minister although I do believe the program referred to by the hon. member is for another purpose.