

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, June 22, 1961

The house met at 11 a.m.

RAILWAYS, CANALS AND TELEGRAPH LINES

Ninth report of standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines—Mr. Howe.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PORTUGAL—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT POLICY ON SUPPLYING MUNITIONS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask the Prime Minister what is the policy of the government of Canada regarding the supplying of munitions to Portugal, one of our NATO allies, particularly having in mind its colonial policy? I ask this question in the light of the statement made by Mr. Lange, the foreign minister for Norway, a country which works closely with Canada in most matters.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): I would not think it proper to make a statement on a matter as important as this in answer to a question on the orders of the day. No notice of the question was given, and I would naturally wish to have a statement carefully prepared covering the situation.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

WINDSOR-DETROIT—REPORTED U.S. ACTION TO PREVENT WORKERS COMMUTING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. D. Thrasher (Essex South): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether he has received any information in respect to a report that the United States may prevent commuters in the city of Windsor from travelling to Detroit for the purpose of working there.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it was reported yesterday in the press that consideration was being given in Washington to closing the Detroit-Windsor border to Canadians who commute daily to work in the United States. It is presumed that this report has reference to surveys which are made by the United States secretary of labour in accordance with the terms of the United States immigration and nationality act. In that act provision is

made for the exclusion from admission to the United States of aliens seeking entry for the purpose of performing skilled or unskilled labour at times and places with respect to which the secretary of labour determines and certifies that there are sufficient workers in the United States able, willing and qualified to perform such labour.

I understand that in recent months action has been taken under this section of the United States statute with reference to the admission of Mexican workers to certain areas along the southern border of the United States. Assurances have, however, been received from the United States authorities that no consideration is being given at this time to any action to restrict the admission of Canadian workers along the United States-Canadian border.

AIRPORTS

VANCOUVER—CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TERMINAL BUILDINGS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Drysdale (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the Minister of Transport. In view of the overwhelming approval yesterday by the rate-payers of the city of Vancouver of the sale of the city owned portion of the Vancouver international airport to the federal government, can the Minister of Transport assure the house that action will be taken immediately for the plans for construction so urgently required in respect to the \$15 million jet terminal buildings?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I must admit that I expected this question from the hon. member, knowing his tremendous interest in the matter of aviation generally in British Columbia. I am very pleased to be able to tell him that instructions are being issued at once to proceed with the planning of that new terminal.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENTS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport, and ask him whether the