

Inquiries of the Ministry

trade anywhere without being subject to United States laws? Has there been consideration of the recommendation to provide a state foreign trade agency, and of the other recommendations in the report to protect Canadian economic independence?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Acting Prime Minister): Of course these questions are under continuous review by the government. Any definitive policy decision will be announced in the normal way.

CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RESPECTING LEGISLATION

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to ask the President of the Privy Council when this house may expect the introduction of the bills dealing particularly with the government's reorganization program and the Canada Development Corporation?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I hope to make a general statement within a week or so about the intended legislative program between now and, I hope, the end of the session in June. Perhaps hon. members could wait until then, when I can be a little more definitive.

[Translation]

AIRPORTS

QUEBEC—LOCATION OF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport with regard to the selection of the site for the future international airport which is to be announced before the end of January. Can he tell us whether such decision will be taken by technocrats or by the cabinet?

[English]

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the official decision will have to be taken by the government, which will be held responsible for it. Naturally the advice of the technical people will be taken into consideration. The government will have to base its decision on the advice it receives and the discussions which have taken place with the province of Quebec.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport.

[Mr. Lewis.]

Is the ballistic centre located in La Macaza a major and definite technical obstacle to the sites suggested north of Montreal along the Hawkesbury-Saint-Jérôme-Rigaud axis?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think that the supplementary question is in order.

[English]

GRAIN

FAILURE TO LOAD SHIPS AT WEST COAST

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce or the Minister of Transport, whichever one is responsible. Why are ships being kept waiting for grain on the west coast during a time when there has been a drop of 18 per cent or 1,100 fewer carloadings as compared with the same period in 1967?

Mr. Speaker: I have the impression that the question as asked is argumentative, but under the circumstances perhaps the minister might be allowed to answer.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, if there are any specific cases the hon. member would like to bring to my attention I would gladly meet him after the question period and bring these to the attention of the Wheat Board and the grain transportation committee.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, there are ships waiting at the present time and there have been 1,100 fewer carloadings than there were at the same time in 1967. This seems general in respect of any delivery point. I do not know what more the minister wants.

Mr. Pepin: I inquire nearly every morning about this situation and I have been informed that the box car situation at the moment is as good as it can be. As I said, I will gladly take notice of any specific case to which the hon. member is referring.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce would discuss these problems with officials of the railways. These nine ships have been waiting many, many days for dry grain, of which we have an abundance in Canada. This is costing the nation as a whole and the farmers in particular a great deal of money. Would the minister be prepared to discuss the matter with the railways?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.