

Inquiries of the Ministry

monuments board the *S.S. Keno*, now at Dawson city, has been declared to be a national historic site. Negotiations are under way with the municipality at Dawson for the maintenance of the *Keno* and its operation as an historic museum.

TRANS-CANADA AIR LINESINQUIRY AS TO EMPLOYMENT OF PILOTS
LAID OFF

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport and ask whether T.C.A. has made any provisions to find employment for the 104 pilots the company plans to lay off this year because of the change-over to its new jet services, and how many of them will find employment.

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, on December 14 last I explained to the house how T.C.A. was going about the laying off of these pilots. As the hon. member said, the lay-off has been brought about because of the switching over from one type of plane to another.

Management of T.C.A., the Department of Transport and I personally are extremely sorry at the laying off of these excellent pilots, who have rendered such great service to aviation in Canada. However, as I explained at the time, T.C.A. has established a laying off procedure so as to ease as much as possible the displacement that will occur following the lay-off. Also, every effort and energy is being expended by the management of T.C.A. to find employment for these pilots. At the present time I do not have figures as to how many have found jobs, but I saw in this morning's paper that some other air lines have been hiring a few of these pilots. I know that it is unfortunate that these pilots have to go outside the country to find employment, but on the other hand it shows that Canada at the present time has the best trained and most competent pilots in the world.

Mr. Chevrier: May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, and inquire whether any consideration has been given by T.C.A. to using a crew of three pilots in their jet service, as I am informed foreign air lines are doing?

Mr. Balcer: I could not say exactly, Mr. Speaker, but I am sure that solution must have been explored. In any event I will check with management and report back to the house.

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

NORTHERN AFFAIRSNORTHWEST TERRITORIES—DECISION OF COUNCIL
RESPECTING DOCTORS AND DENTISTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Leader of the Opposition directed a question to the Prime Minister in which he asked whether the Prime Minister's attention had been called to the decision of the Northwest Territories council, as reported in the press, that it cannot afford the program aimed at recruiting badly needed doctors and dentists for the northland. The hon. member asked for any comment on the decision, and in view of the fact that the council reports through the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources I thought I might be allowed to answer.

May I preface my remarks, Mr. Speaker, by stressing that within its spheres of jurisdiction, which are substantially those of a province except for the administration of resources, the administration of the Northwest Territories operates autonomously. The decisions of the council are those of the council and relate to essentially provincial functions. They are not the responsibility of any department of the federal government.

I have consulted the commissioner of the Northwest Territories, and I am advised that the council had before it for consideration, at the session that has just concluded, a plan designed to provide increased public health services in the Great Slave lake region of the territories, and to establish arrangements that would make practice there attractive to doctors and dentists, whom it is now extremely difficult to secure. The plan would have cost the territories \$129,000 per year over and above present health expenditures, plus an unknowable amount of added cost for increased health treatment. The council is already budgeting, I am advised, for expenditures of \$1,242,600 for health services in 1961-62, and faces a total budgetary deficit of \$1,273,398.

In all the circumstances the council decided that it could not, at the current session, adopt the health plan. It did, however, pass a resolution that may be of interest to the house, and if it were the wish of the house I could read the operative part of the resolution:

(a) That it would be desirable, in the interests of the health of children and of people in the territories who are not at present covered by federal health services, to be able to introduce, at as early a date as possible, a plan based on the Great Slave lake health plan with the intention of extending it to cover, as soon as practicable, the entire Mackenzie valley and Mackenzie delta areas;

(b) That it would be reasonable and acceptable to have some part of the cost of such a service