

Inquiries of the Ministry

any information on the collision in lake Huron last week which resulted in the loss of the Liberian ship *Monrovia*, and can he indicate whether or not this ship carried either a United States or Canadian pilot?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): I have not received the details of this collision, Mr. Speaker, but so far as I am aware neither ship had a pilot on board.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS**NATIONAL LIBRARY—INQUIRY AS TO COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. In view of the great interest of Canadians in the provision of a national library, can the minister say when the construction of a Canadian national library is likely to be commenced?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, this is one of the buildings to be built in Ottawa which has been under very active consideration. It had been hoped that work could be commenced this year. The hon. member will have noted that there is no item in the estimates for 1959-60 for this particular building. I am sure we are all hopeful that this building can be erected in the very near future.

Mr. Argue: Could I ask the minister whether, by that statement, he means that construction cannot begin this year, or would the minister consider an item in the supplementary estimates?

Mr. Green: I am afraid that construction cannot begin this year. I point out to the hon. member we have been busy building post offices all across Canada, for example one in Radville, in the hon. member's own constituency. We cannot construct all these buildings at once.

Mr. Argue: I wonder if the minister would not agree that there are enough people unemployed in the country to build the national library?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): May I ask a supplementary question. Have any steps been taken as yet to demolish the buildings that are now on the site of the proposed national library?

Mr. Green: If I recall correctly, temporary building No. 1 is on at least a portion of the site for the national library and, as the hon. member knows, when the Jackson building was severely damaged last fall it was necessary to move several branches of different departments into temporary building No. 1.

Mr. Pickersgill: It is still being occupied?

Mr. Green: I think so; I have not looked at it recently.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**INQUIRY AS TO COMMUNICATION FROM QUEBEC ON CONFERENCE AGENDA**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): May I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has he yet received from the Quebec government any answer to the agenda or comprehensive report which he sent out to all the heads of delegations in connection with the conference?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker. I have made inquiries since yesterday and I am informed that no specific reply has been received in that respect.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.—REQUEST FOR INCREASED HOTEL ACCOMMODATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Tucker (Trinity-Conception): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the inadequate hotel accommodation in St. John's, Newfoundland, will the minister urge the Canadian National Railways to enlarge the Newfoundland hotel at St. John's?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): I shall be glad to pass on to the management of the Canadian National Railways the hon. member's suggestion.

(Translation):

PARLIAMENT HILL**INQUIRY AS TO SINGING OF "O CANADA" DURING CEREMONIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Yvon Dupuis (St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State a question concerning the trooping of the colours ceremony which took place yesterday in front of the parliament buildings. I would like to know why neither before nor after the ceremony, the hymn "O Canada" was played?

Hon. Henri Courtemanche (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I was not in charge of this ceremonial, and therefore have no comment to make in the matter.

Mr. Dupuis: Mr. Speaker, could the minister tell me who was in charge, and to whom I could address my request for information?