

Inquiries of the Ministry

The first stage of construction provides for a road north from Heath Steele across the Nepisiguit river and thence westerly for two miles to the Wedge property of Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company. This will bring the mine into production and reactivate the smelter at Heath Steele by 1962. The cost of construction of this section of road will be divided among the province, the federal government and the company directly benefiting. In subsequent years this road will be extended north a further 16 miles to connect with an east-west development road of approximately 50 miles in length to be constructed under this program.

It is expected that the project will result in a mining complex which will make a real contribution toward stimulating employment and economic opportunities generally in the northern part of the province. I think hon. members will agree it is an excellent example of the kind of resource development contemplated in the roads to resources program.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CUBA—REPORTED EXISTENCE OF SOVIET
MISSILE BASE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. W. Carter (Burin-Burgeo): May I put a question to the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for not giving him notice, but I have been in committee since 9.30 and did not have an opportunity to reach him. Has the minister any information that would indicate the existence of a Soviet missile base on the island of Cuba? Would the minister care to comment on a press report over the radio this morning concerning this possibility?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Was the hon. member's question about a missile base in Cuba?

Mr. Carter: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I fail to see how the hon. member can bring that subject under the jurisdiction of the Minister of National Defence.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, would you not agree that a Soviet missile base in a neighbouring country would be a matter of concern and interest to this country and its government?

Mr. Speaker: I agree that it is a matter of interest, but I do not think it is the administrative responsibility of the Minister of National Defence.

Mr. Pearson: Is it not part of the responsibility of the minister and the government to consider a missile base in an adjoining country?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps so, but it is not of such immediate consequence and urgency as to permit a question to be asked at this time. I think hon. members will agree that if I permitted the question it would be permissible to ask whether any of the republics in Africa were acquiring submarines for the purpose of attacking Canada, or a variety of questions on which obviously the house should not spend its time on the orders of the day; therefore, with all due respect to the hon. member who posed the question, I do not consider it appropriate.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**ROYAL COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION—
INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION THIS
SESSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Is the Prime Minister in a position to inform the house whether legislation will be introduced at this session based on the MacPherson royal commission report on transportation? I wonder whether the Prime Minister could assure those communities in the country which are dependent on branch line railway service that there will be no wholesale abandonment of branch railway lines pending the introduction of legislation based on this report.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as one who knows something of the advantages of branch lines in the province of Saskatchewan in the early years, continuing until today, I am sure every consideration will be given by the railroads to assuring that in the years ahead the services rendered shall be those that are requisite.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**DORVAL AIRPORT—COMPLAINTS RESPECTING
VACCINATION PROCEDURE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has he received a communication from Mr. Woodrow Wyatt, United Kingdom member of parliament, or from any other passengers travelling from overseas by air complaining about the procedure involved in getting their vaccinations checked at the Montreal airport?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, almost simultaneously with the receipt of a letter dated the 8th of this month I heard the substance of that letter over the radio. That is just a coincidence, but it indicates that even before I had an