

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, Canada has enjoyed close relations with the commonwealth entities of Malaya, Singapore, British North Borneo and Sarawak. Yesterday in the United Kingdom an agreement was concluded, and this must be related to the events which we all anticipate will take place on the 31st of August with the formation of the new federated state of Malaysia. There is no question about the continuation of the most cordial relations between this new state in the commonwealth and Canada.

TRANS-CANADA AIR LINESDISCUSSIONS RESPECTING PURCHASE OF
MEDIUM RANGE JETS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Leon Balcer (Three Rivers): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport if he is in a position at the present time to indicate to the house whether Trans-Canada Air Lines are going to have their medium jet replacement built at Canadair, and when we can expect a final decision on this matter.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would not expect a final decision on this matter for several weeks yet. There has been no decision as to what plane will be procured, and it is too early to give any indication at all in the matter.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONSINQUIRY AS TO POSTPONEMENT OF MUNICIPAL
LOAN LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has house discussion of the municipal loans legislation been indefinitely postponed?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Not at all, Mr. Speaker. As soon as we get ahead with the business now before the house we will proceed to discuss this important measure.

(Translation):

[Later:]

Hon. Leon Balcer (Three Rivers): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct to the Prime Minister a question with regard to the statement he has just made, according to which the government, in spite of Mr. Lesage's protests, has no intention of reconsidering its proposal for the tabling in the house of legislation respecting financial assistance by way of municipal loans and also a measure concerning old age pensions.

[Mr. Olson:]

Must we conclude that the Prime Minister is reverting to the theories of his predecessors of the Liberal party?

(Text):

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker, there is no justification for the deduction contained in the hon. gentleman's question, which itself was out of order.

(Translation):

[Later:]

Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Temisca-tingue): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Prime Minister? In view of the statement made by the President of the Privy Council the day before yesterday to the effect that an agreement is always possible between the federal government and the provinces with respect to the program of loans to municipalities, could the Prime Minister tell us whether he intends to propose an option formula likely to meet the objections of the province of Quebec?

(Text):

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, this is one matter that will be discussed at a meeting before long with all the provinces including Quebec, and they will be given the opportunity to express their views on this particular piece of legislation.

(Translation):

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question? Does the Prime Minister intend to reply shortly to Mr. Lesage's letter, considering the latter's impatience?

(Text):

Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I intend to reply to that letter in due course. I would also be interested in receiving the views of other provinces on this matter. I have not received any from any other province.

(Translation):

PENITENTIARIESST. PIE DE BAGOT, QUE.—INQUIRY AS TO
CONSTRUCTION OF INSTITUTION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Theogene Ricard (St. Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Justice? Could he tell the house whether his department has given up the idea of building a medium security penitentiary at St. Pie de Bagot as was announced in 1961?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, a question on this matter was put on the order paper and the hon. member received an answer.