

Inquiries of the Ministry
**FOREIGN INSURANCE
 COMPANIES ACT**

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING FILING
 OF STATEMENTS, ETC.

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance) moved the first reading of Bill No. 437 (from the Senate), to amend the Foreign Insurance Companies Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**CANADIAN AND BRITISH INSURANCE
 COMPANIES ACT**

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING DEPOSIT, FILING
 OF STATEMENTS, ETC.

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance) moved the first reading of Bill No. 438 (from the Senate), to amend the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

420 SQUADRON, LONDON—REQUEST FOR
 RECONSIDERATION OF DISBANDMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. O. White (Middlesex East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. In view of the apparent shortage of air transport facilities disclosed in the white paper recently issued by the Department of National Defence, would the minister reconsider the disbandment of 420 fighter squadron, London, and re-establish the squadron as a trainee and transport squadron?

I also have a second question. Would not a reorganization along these lines utilize the personnel and airport facilities at London rather than waste them, as now seems apparent?

Hon. R. O. Campney (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as I said the other day, each of the auxiliary squadrons was considered from all the angles which I have mentioned on two occasions in the house and the decisions that were taken were taken in the light of those factors. It is my recollection, and I speak subject to correction, that the flying activities of the squadron at London were not very great. If I am wrong I can be corrected in that, but I think it is true. I believe it was felt the activities of those who are air-minded in the London auxiliary—and there are some very good people—could be better tied into the Royal Canadian Air Force organization in the way which is proposed under the revision of duties which has been worked out.

[Mr. Low.]

FREIGHT RATES

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT RESCIND RECENT
 INCREASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport arising out of the 7 per cent increase in freight rates scheduled to go into effect on Tuesday next. Has the minister considered the heavy burden such an increase will impose on primary producers and consumers in this country? Will the government use the authority given it under section 53 of the Railway Act to rescind the order of the board of transport commissioners and thus prevent any increase in freight rates at this time?

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would like to reply that I have just received a copy of the judgment. I have not had an opportunity of reading it and I therefore am not able to express any opinion upon it.

Mr. Argue: In view of the urgency of the question I wonder if the minister will study the judgment and make a reply on Monday?

Mr. Marler: Mr. Speaker, I do not think I can give that undertaking but I shall read it as soon as I can.

PRIVILEGE

MR. BOISVERT—REFERENCE TO ARTICLE IN
 MONTREAL "GAZETTE"

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Boisvert (Nicolet-Yamaska): Mr. Speaker, I am rising on a question of privilege. Yesterday the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch) made a statement to some newspapermen which is published today in the *Montreal Gazette*. This statement accuses members of the committee on capital punishment of having cast their votes against their personal beliefs. As a member of that committee and speaking for myself I want to say I have given to this extremely important question of abolishing the death penalty very long and cautious study and when I voted to retain capital punishment I voted, as I have always done throughout my life, according to my conscience and according to my conviction which is the conviction of the majority of the people of the province of Quebec. I think it is most unfair for a member of parliament, inside this house or outside of it, to make a statement such as that which appears today in the *Montreal Gazette*.