

permanent arrangement. I have indicated to the provincial government that hopefully we would be in a position to talk to them sometime within a few months after the House of Commons has had a chance to study the report on port facilities which is available at this time for consideration.

Mr. Rose: Do I understand, Mr. Minister, that the lease agreement for land upon which very expensive installations might be constructed is based on a temporary or one year agreement? What are the possibilities for the renewal of this agreement, and under what terms?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must remind hon. members that questions should be directed to the Chair. Having said that, perhaps the minister might want to reply.

Mr. Hellyer: It is a temporary arrangement, but that was all that was required to get on with construction of the port. There are a number of options open to the government as to the final solution. Any conclusion in this regard would prejudge policy in respect of port administration and control which is yet to be decided. Consequently all the questions of this nature will have to be left until parliament and the government has had a chance to study the report to which I referred earlier.

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, has the minister received the report, which he said back on October 16 would be ready by late November, defining the division of jurisdiction as between the federal and provincial governments; and if so can he table that report?

Mr. Hellyer: The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nowlan: When will it be tabled?

Mr. Hellyer: Soon, Mr. Speaker. In order to be more precise, I would say not later than next week.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the Minister of Transport will take as long to reach a decision with respect to the Roberts Bank problem as the Prime Minister is taking with regard to our national defence problem.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CZECHOSLOVAKIA—INQUIRY AS TO PROTEST NOTE FROM RUSSIA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

Can he tell the house if the government has received from Russia a note of protest similar to that received by Great Britain in view of the discontinuance of cultural exchanges with Czechoslovakia? If so, what position will the Canadian government take about that note of protest and related comments?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am not aware that such a note has been received, Mr. Speaker. However, the Secretary of State for External Affairs could no doubt answer that question if it were put to him when he is in the house.

[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD—REQUEST FOR INCREASED STAFF

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the opinion expressed yesterday by the chairman of the National Energy Board that high priority should be given to providing the board with sufficient staff to undertake intensive studies regarding the possibilities of future Canadian oil development in the north, will the Treasury Board give high priority to providing the National Energy Board with this additional staff as a means of helping to protect our oil development interests in the north?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question asked by the hon. member is of very general scope and is not of the required degree of urgency. Perhaps the hon. member would like to put the question on the order paper.

Mr. Hees: With deference, Mr. Speaker, I ask the question in view of the very important and recent discoveries by United States interests in the north and the great alarm expressed by the chairman of the National Energy Board as recently as yesterday. In view of this I think the question is important.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the minister might be allowed to answer the question.