

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can I ask the minister when he expects to make a decision and whether he will announce that decision to the House?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I cannot indicate with any precision when the decision will be made, other than to say as soon as possible. It has not been the practice to make such announcements in the House but I certainly have no objection to doing it that way, or to tabling the decision in any event.

TRENTON, N.S.—DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE BY EASTERN PROVINCIAL AIRWAYS

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister of Transport why it is, in view of his statement that he will hear appeals from interveners in the Transair application, that in the matter of Eastern Provincial Airways discontinuing service at Trenton Nova Scotia, he would not consider an appeal by an intervener in that case?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it was not a matter of my deciding not to hear the intervener. The hon. member is so persuasive that I would have heard the whole of Nova Scotia, had he asked, but I did not have the legal authority because that case is quite different from the one in question.

CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

THE ARCTIC—UNITED STATES NOTE PROTESTING CANADA'S POSITION

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I wished to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but in his absence perhaps the Acting Minister or the Prime Minister might be interested in answering. Has there been received recently a very stiff note from the United States government to Canada protesting against the attempt by the Canadian government to assert jurisdiction for a distance of 100 miles from the mainland and the Arctic islands in the north? Does such a note contain the indication that very stern sanctions will be exercised, economically and otherwise, by the United States in this respect?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as it is not the minister's day to be in the House may I be permitted to

answer. I know our ambassador in Washington has been asked, I believe in the past hour, to meet with an official of the Secretary of State's Department in that city. Of course, I have no knowledge of what the note will contain. I take it that the hon. member opposite has?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baldwin: We do have our sources of information, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the debate on this bill is scheduled for Thursday, will the Prime Minister undertake to make known before that date the contents of this particular note if he receives it so that in the debate which takes place proper regard will be paid to the note?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I do not know about international procedures; I am not sure if a note of this kind is intended to be made public. I am sure that if the American government wants the opposition to have a copy of it they will ascertain that that is done.

Mr. Baldwin: Read your press releases.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

ESTABLISHMENT OF ARCTIC COMMAND POST

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Has the government taken a decision to establish a military headquarters and/or base in the Arctic? Also, when will he be in a position to outline the details as to time, place and purpose?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as to the decision, it has been taken. The purpose of the trip I made last week was to ascertain some details and obtain new facts. As a matter of fact, these additional facts—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle):—are being distilled now, and I hope to make an announcement some time this week.

Mr. Nowlan: Is that a fact?

Mr. MacLean: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the contemplated establishment require a supplementary estimate in the present fiscal year or are the costs included in the estimates for the fiscal year that have already been established?