

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Queens): A supplementary question. In this connection would the Minister also check into a report that the radar equipment used by traffic control at Kelly Lake has a blind area—I believe that has not been denied—with a view to correcting this condition, which is not a desirable one regardless of whether or not it is dangerous?

of current interest and study, and we hope a decision will be taken in the not too distant future.

Mr. Lambert: That is even more vague than before.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION

THEFT OF COBALT CONCENTRATE AT DELORO, ONT.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister or the Minister of Industry whether they have a reply today regarding the theft of cobalt concentrates at Deloro, Ontario.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am very grateful to the hon. Member for Queens for doing me the courtesy of advising my office that he intended to raise this matter today. I have been informed about the blind area to which the hon. gentleman refers. I think I will not take the time of the House to deal with the matter, because the whole thing is set out very clearly in an excellent story in the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* of this morning.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

WEST GERMANY—ELIMINATION OF COLD WAR PROPAGANDA FROM PUBLICATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to address a question to the Minister of National Defence. In view of the fact that Hon. Denis Healey, Minister of Defence for Great Britain, has instructed British military authorities to delete all cold war propaganda from any news sheets distributed to the British troops in Germany, has the Minister given consideration to issuing a similar order to the Canadian military authorities in West Germany?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, as I think the House learned yesterday, there has been a theft of cobalt from Deloro Mining and Smelting Company of Ontario. The matter is now under investigation by the provincial police. Perhaps it would suffice for the moment to say that this cobalt was the property of the Federal Government and was in storage in custody of the Deloro Mining and Smelting Company in consequence of a storage contract entered into for the custody and safekeeping of the material.

Under this contract the company was required to certify quarterly to the Government as to the inventory on hand. The most recent certificate dated April 1 of this year, indicated that as of April 1 the full amount of the cobalt was on hand. Since then the company has discovered that a large part of it is missing. The Ontario provincial police, who were originally called in, are now conducting an intensive investigation.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of this alleged fact, but I expect to see Mr. Healey in two or three weeks and I will be pleased to have a word with him about it then.

INQUIRY AS TO PROCUREMENT OF NEW TACTICAL AIRCRAFT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence which may appear to be familiar, but I think he knows the pattern he has set in this regard. Would the Minister allay the anxiety of the House, the air force and members of the other armed services by indicating when he may be in a position to announce a decision with regard to major aircraft replacement?

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): A supplementary question. In view of my question yesterday in regard to this matter and the answer today by the Minister, can the Minister inform the House whether such a storage contract involved any bond coverage on the part of those responsible for storage, or was this valuable and strategic material covered by any insurance in case of theft such as that which has now been revealed?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, Deloro Mining and Smelting Company is, as I think the House is aware, a reputable operating company. There is no provision which required the company to insure or bond against theft in the contract for storage.

An hon. Member: Soon.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Yes, Mr. Speaker. This is a matter

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): I have a supplementary question for the Minis-