

Inquiries of the Ministry
TRANS-CANADA AIR LINES

STATEMENT ON CRASH AT MOOSE JAW

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Howard C. Green (Vancouver-Quadra): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Trade and Commerce give the house any information concerning the tragic accident involving Trans-Canada Air Lines this morning?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I am very sorry indeed to have to report to the house that a Trans-Canada Air Lines plane westbound from Winnipeg to Calgary was in collision with a Harvard trainer over Moose Jaw an hour or two ago. Both planes crashed and all occupants of both planes were killed. The report I have from Winnipeg indicates that there were 26 revenue passengers on the North Star, although another report from Winnipeg indicates 30 passengers. In addition, there were five personnel of T.C.A. and the aeroplane crew of four. I am told there were two persons in the Harvard trainer. One plane fell on a house in the outskirts of Moose Jaw and I believe the house was burned. I have not been able to ascertain whether there were any ground casualties. The other plane fell on the golf club. That is all the information I have at the moment. It is more tragic since I believe this is only the third fatal accident on T.C.A. since 1937.

C.N.R.—EXTRA CONSTRUCTION GANGS

Mr. Leboe:

1. Does the Canadian National Railways contract with construction companies or any person or persons for the supervision of extra gangs?
2. If so, are tenders called for?
3. On what basis are they paid for this service?
4. Are dining facilities under this supervision? If so, what is paid for this supervision?

Mr. Langlois (Gaspé): The Canadian National Railways advise as follows:

1. Supervision of all extra gangs is by qualified railway employees.
- 2 and 3. Answered by No. 1.
4. Supervision of dining facilities is by qualified railway employees.

ARMED FORCES—TOTAL STRENGTH

Mr. Jones:

1. What was the total strength of Canada's armed forces on April 1, 1954?
2. What was the number recruited in the months of January, February and March?

Mr. Blanchette:

1. Strength figures for March will not be available until the middle of April. Strength of Canadian armed forces on February 28, 1954, was 111,197.
2. January, 2,911; February, 3,155.

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

GOVERNMENT MEAT PURCHASES

Mr. Howe (Wellington-Huron):

1. What were the quantities, value and grade of meat products purchased by (a) Department of National Defence; (b) other government departments, in each of the years 1952 and 1953, and each of the months January and February, 1954?
2. From whom were the purchases made, indicating quantity and price?
3. Were all purchases by tender and if not, indicate purchases other than by tender?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman would consent to having this question read "meat" instead of "meat products" it would facilitate the answer. There might be meat products which had very little meat in them.

Mr. Knowles: Like pork and beans.

Mr. Pickersgill: There is another point that perhaps ought to be made.

It is assumed it is not intended to include meat bought by the agricultural prices support board during the foot-and-mouth disease emergency. With these amendments, it can be an order for return.

Mr. Speaker: Order for return.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

EMPLOYMENT OF CANADIANS ON PIPE LINE FROM HAINES TO FAIRBANKS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Elmore Philpott (Vancouver South): I should like to address the following question to the Minister of Labour. What steps is the government taking to ensure the maximum number of jobs for Canadians on the pipe line from Haines to Fairbanks, Alaska, which crosses through 265 miles of Canadian territory?

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour): I thank the hon. member for sending me notice of his question. A number of other members from British Columbia have asked me about this matter in private correspondence, so perhaps I might answer them all. The pipe line in question will commence at Haines, Alaska, and end at Fairbanks, and will cut through approximately 265 miles of Canadian territory. The Marwell Construction Company apparently will construct the pumping stations and Williams Brothers of Butte, Montana, will lay the pipe line.

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OUTSIDE CANADA

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.	172
11	1,123
22	1,254
8	133
41	2,682

CONFERENCE— COMMITTEE

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Inquiries of the Ministry

At the present time the right of way is being cleared and, as far as Canadian territory is concerned, two contractors from Whitehorse are now engaged, and local labour is being employed. Welding processes in the pipeline construction will be done by skilled men from the United States and all other employees on the Canadian part of the project will be Canadians. We have an arrangement with the department of immigration not to permit the entry into Canada, for purposes of the project, of any people other than key personnel. Our British Columbia regional office officials are watching the matter and will see that whatever employment opportunities there are will be filled by Canadians. I understand that bunkhouses will shortly be constructed at four sites, two in the Yukon and two in Alaska. There again Canadian workmen will be employed in the Yukon area.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo): What reasons have been given for employing American welders on that job rather than Canadian welders? We have many competent welders in British Columbia who passed a specific examination for that type of work when the Trans Mountain pipe line was being constructed.

Mr. Gregg: I feel that on the whole the arrangement that has been worked out with the contractors by the regional unemployment office in British Columbia is a very equitable one indeed, and since both terminals of the pipe line are in United States territory I think the fact that a few welders are to be used in the Canadian section is not unfair.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

HALIFAX—COMPLETION OF PLANS AND CALLING FOR TENDERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. R. Balcom (Halifax): May I inquire of the Minister of Public Works regarding the present status of the proposed public building in Halifax? Are the plans completed, and when will tenders be called?

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Public Works): The plans are nearing completion and we expect to be able to call for tenders by the 15th of June.

[Later:]

INQUIRY AS TO BUILDINGS IN PETERBOROUGH

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce under whose department Crown Assets Disposal Corporation is

[Mr. Gregg.]

administered. Has the government sold the old stone customs house building at the corner of George and Charlotte streets in Peterborough? If so, to whom was it sold?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I have made inquiries of Crown Assets Disposal Corporation. I am told that this building has not been declared surplus, and it was the opinion of the officer with whom I discussed the matter that it is not likely to be declared surplus.

[Later:]

Mr. Fraser (Peterborough): I should like to ask a supplementary question. Since the minister mentioned that the building in Peterborough is not likely to be sold, can he tell us what department of government is going to use it?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I did not understand the last part of the question.

Mr. Fraser (Peterborough): If the building is not going to be sold by the government, then some department is going to occupy it when the new federal building is completed?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I would assume the Department of Public Works has a purpose for the building which is of sufficient importance to lead to the conclusion that the government should retain it.

Mr. Fraser (Peterborough): I should like to ask the Minister of Public Works the question, then. Can he say what use will be made of the old customs house building?

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Public Works): May I take that question as notice?

Mr. Fraser (Peterborough): In checking on that, will the minister also check on the old post office building in Peterborough?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INDO-CHINA—UNITED STATES PROPOSAL TO ISSUE WARNING TO GOVERNMENT OF CHINA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): May I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. What is the position of the Canadian government with reference to the proposal of President Eisenhower and Mr. Dulles that certain western nations should join together in issuing a warning to the government of China with respect to Indo-China and armed participation in the hostilities there? What communications has the Canadian government received or sent on this subject?

Hon. L. B. Pe
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