

NATIONAL DEFENCE

AIRPORT SOUTH OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. C. Miller (Portage la Prairie): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Some transfer of authority is taking place affecting the airport south of Portage la Prairie. I should like the minister to indicate what the plans of the government are with regard to this matter; in particular whether the airport will be reopened for training purposes, or whether other expansion is contemplated.

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): I shall be glad to look into the matter and give my hon. friend an answer later.

SAM CARR

STATEMENT AS TO CHARGE TO BE PREFERRED UNDER THE CRIMINAL CODE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce that Mr. Sam Carr is now in custody in Ottawa and will be brought before a magistrate in this city tomorrow. He will probably be remanded for one week. In anticipation of Mr. Carr's return we had retained Mr. John Cartwright, K.C., of Toronto to act as government counsel in this case. The charge with which we propose to proceed is that of conspiracy to commit forgery. This is under section 573 of the Criminal Code, and carries a maximum sentence of seven years. The alleged offence occurred in connection with the renewal of a Canadian passport issued to one Witczak and taken from him and used by an international spy posing under his name.

SOCIAL SECURITY

QUESTION AS TO PROVISION FOR INCAPACITATED PERSONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. Chester S. McLure (Queens): I desire to direct a question to the Minister of Health and Welfare. Has anything been done for the incapacitated people in Canada so as to give some relief and some social security to these unfortunate deserving people?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I think the hon. gentleman would be the first to admit the general character of his question. I cannot of course say what is being done, other than by the government of Canada, for the people concerned. I may say that much is being done for those who are incapacitated for one

Newfoundland

reason or another. I would call the attention of the hon. gentleman to the provisions that are made in the national health plan to cover tubercular patients, and persons suffering from cancer, arthritis, poliomyelitis, mental disease, and so on. I am sure the hon. member will appreciate the very wide scope of the services covered by these grants.

NEWFOUNDLAND

APPROVAL OF TERMS OF UNION WITH CANADA

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): moved the third reading of Bill No. 11, to approve the terms of union of Newfoundland with Canada.

Mr. John R. MacNicol (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, I shall not delay for more than a few moments the passage of this important and historic bill. I am fairly familiar with that magnificent island which is to be our tenth province; yet I feel that I should speak very briefly. Newfoundland was represented at the Quebec conference of 1864, when the four provinces of Canada, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick—decided to enter confederation. I often recall the words of Sir Ambrose Shea, who was one of the two Newfoundland representatives. So far as they were concerned they were satisfied with the proposals and would have joined the confederation, but did not have the authority to do so at that time. Ever since 1864, well-wishers of confederation, both in Newfoundland and in Canada, have looked forward to this day. I am sure we are all happy indeed at the prospect that lies before us. I will not repeat the exact words of Sir Ambrose Shea, but he said that, looking into the future, he could hardly describe the great vista that opened before him, in the realization of what confederation would mean to his province and to Canada.

Confederation has turned out to be something much greater than anything Sir Ambrose Shea could have visualized. At that time British Columbia was not a part of Canada, nor were the three western provinces. If Sir Ambrose could have foreseen the Canada of today, of which Newfoundland will be the tenth province, he would have seen that we have one river, the Mackenzie, with the largest basin, all in the same country, on the whole continent of North America. Some will say at once that I am forgetting the Mississippi, but the basin of the Mississippi is not all in the United States; part of it is in Alberta and part of it is in Saskatchewan. The Mackenzie river is wholly in Canada.

Canada also borders the largest lake in the world, although not all of it is in Canada. Eleven thousand square miles of the 31,000