

NATIONAL DEFENCE

TRANSFER OF LONG BRANCH, ONT., RIFLE RANGE
TO WOODBRIDGE IN YORK COUNTY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gordon Graydon (Peel): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence, arising out of an announcement made yesterday by the Minister of Planning and Development for Ontario, in which he indicated that the Long Branch rifle ranges had been acquired by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and that plans were under way to provide some 2,000 housing units in that area.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that he should ask his question directly.

Mr. Graydon: I shall do so. When does the department expect that the rifle ranges will be vacated by the military, and in what part of the county of York near Woodbridge is the new rifle range to be located?

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member for Peel said, this arrangement was announced simultaneously yesterday by the minister in Ontario and by myself. The time at which the change-over will be made from the existing range at Long Branch to the proposed range at Woodbridge will depend upon the time at which we can get possession of the 1,800 acres at Woodbridge, and construct on it the necessary butts, ranges, accommodation, and so on. No estimate can be made of that, because, in part, it depends upon the expropriation proceedings, and the speed with which the relatively small number of occupants of houses in the Woodbridge area will move away.

The area, generally speaking, as I recall the map—and I have not received notice of the hon. member's question—is to the north and east of Woodbridge.

PENSIONS

TUBERCULAR VETERANS—TELEGRAM FROM
TRANQUILLE, B.C., WITH RESPECT
TO LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, has the Prime Minister received a telegram from the Tranquille branch of the tubercular veterans section of the Canadian Legion requesting certain action in connection with pension legislation? If so, will the Prime Minister indicate whether any action will be taken accordingly at this session?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have had no notice of such communication. As Prime Minister I receive a large number of communications, but I shall make sure about this one when I have seen the text of the hon. member's question. As to whether or not any action will be taken, that, of course, is a matter of government policy, and government policy is usually announced in the house after it has been determined by the government.

STRAIT OF CANSO BRIDGE

REQUEST FOR FURTHER STATEMENT
AS TO CONSTRUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Clarence Gillis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Transport. Has the minister's attention been called to a press dispatch in the *Sydney Post-Record* of June 9, 1951, to the effect—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member should ask his question without referring to the dispatch. I realize that this presents some difficulty, but if I allow a question to be asked in this way, I do not see how I can prevent hon. members from reading press dispatches in asking questions on the orders of the day.

Mr. Gillis: I cannot very well ask the minister a question unless I tell him what it is all about. I would ask if his attention has been called to a press dispatch, the caption of which is, "Bridge plans are abandoned". Would the minister bring the house up to date in this matter? Have the plans for the Canso bridge project been abandoned, and is it a fact that immediate work is to begin at the strait of Canso for the construction of a causeway?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I said in the House of Commons some time ago that the board of engineers established by the government to study the Canso bridge proposal had been reconvened. I had not at that time, and neither have I yet received, a report from the board, although I understand it will be forthcoming before the end of the session. When the report is before me I shall be glad to give the house the details of the recommendations contained therein—that is, after I have consulted with my colleagues. I can add nothing to the statement that has already been made.

IRRIGATION

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER PROJECT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture