

Inquiries of the Ministry

anything political. The hon. gentleman used to talk about unity and the fact that this is a bilingual country—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Green: If I may say a word in reply, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that the hon. member has a great many government buildings in his riding. If that were not the case we might give some consideration to naming one of them the Gour building.

TRANSPORTREQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON INCREASED
COMMUTER FARES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware of a tariff filed with the board of transport commissioners by the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific Railway providing for commuter fare increases of from 17 to 37 per cent in the metropolitan area of Montreal? Will he bring to the board representations outlining the seriousness of this increase to those using commuter services? Perhaps he may wish to make a statement on this matter.

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the proposed increase, and I have already spoken to the chairman of the board of transport commissioners about it.

Mr. Chevrier: May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If a municipality in the metropolitan area of Montreal protests the increase, will the board suspend the tariff until the hearing is held?

Mr. Hees: Well, Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak for the board of transport commissioners regarding what their action or lack of action will be, but I would say that judging from the action that has been taken in similar cases in the past I would think if a municipality did protest, there would be a good likelihood that the increase would be suspended pending a hearing.

AIRPORTSBOUNDARY BAY, B.C.—INQUIRY AS TO MEETING
OF OFFICIALS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Taylor (Vancouver-Burrard): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport with respect to the urgent problems relating to the Boundary Bay airport in British Columbia. Would the minister inform the house whether a meeting

[Mr. Gour.]

has been arranged with officials from Vancouver and officials of the minister's department?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, a meeting has been arranged during the first week in March between officials of my department and representatives from Vancouver including Alderman Halford Wilson, the Vancouver airport manager, the president of the British Columbia aviation council and Mr. Frank Bernard, director of the council.

HIGHWAYSREPORTED PLAN TO PAVE ALASKA HIGHWAY
ON COST-SHARING BASIS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister arising out of a press dispatch in this morning's papers saying that Senator Neuberger had introduced in the United States congress legislation to authorize the paving of the Canadian portion of the Alaska highway on a cost-sharing basis with Canada. I wonder if the Prime Minister would comment on Senator Neuberger's statement that the project had been discussed by President Eisenhower and our Prime Minister at the Ottawa meetings last summer. Can the Prime Minister say whether the Canadian government will participate in such a project if it becomes law in the United States?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have not read the item in question, but I should be glad to look into the matter and see whether or not I am in a position to answer the question in the form in which it was asked.

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Assiniboia has sent over the clipping in question, which reads in part as follows:

Senator Richard L. Neuberger today reintroduced in the United States congress legislation to authorize the paving of the Canadian portion of the Alaska highway on a cost-sharing basis with Canada.

The Canadian share would run to about \$66 million, spread over a six-year period.

Neuberger disclosed that the project had been discussed by President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Diefenbaker at their Ottawa meeting last summer, and urged further more complete meeting between the two countries at a lower level.

Let me say that it was merely one of those informal matters which came up for discussion, not as between the President and myself but as between Mr. Dulles, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of