

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Hees: That is debate.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is perhaps interested in presenting a point of view, but this is not the proper time at which to do so. This is a time in which to get information. It seems to me that the answers have been clear and that they have been sufficiently elucidated by supplementary questions.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO—REPORTED REQUEST FOR SUBWAY LOAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Garland (Nipissing): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister received a request to meet with a Toronto metro committee in order to discuss their request for a \$58 million subway loan? If so, is it his intention to comply with this request?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am unable to say without having looked into the file directly, but there certainly have been discussions in this regard. As always, the government is prepared to listen to representations and it will continue to follow that course.

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

BRITISH COLUMBIA—REPAIR OF FLOOD DAMAGE IN FRASER CANYON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold Hicks (Fraser Valley): I have a question I should like to ask the Minister of Public Works. Whose responsibility is it to repair the trans-Canada highway flood damage in the Fraser canyon of British Columbia?

Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works): The question of the repair of the trans-Canada highway in the Fraser Valley is under investigation at the present time. We have engineers out there at the site to determine that matter, and on receipt of the necessary information I shall be very happy to answer the question asked by the hon. member.

QUEBEC—STATEMENT ON REPORTED CHANGE OF ROUTE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works): Perhaps I might take this opportunity to answer the question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Vaudreuil-Soulanges concerning the contents of the telegram I sent in reply to the request of the Quebec government for the consent of the federal government to their proposed change in the

route of the trans-Canada highway through Vaudreuil. The following is the text of the telegram dated January 20:

Reurtel even date regarding route trans-Canada on basis of information you have given our officials to effect that proposed route is 2.3 miles shorter and will decrease cost to federal government of some \$500,000 am prepared to authorize new route through Isle aux Tourtres instead of Ile Perrot.

MONTREAL—POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL RATHER THAN BRIDGE

Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works): Perhaps I might also take this opportunity to answer a further question, this time one asked by the hon. member for St. Mary on January 26, in which the possibility of building a tunnel was referred to. The answer is as follows. The route of the highway, as provided for in the trans-Canada highway agreement, crosses the St. Lawrence over the west end of Boucherville islands which is east of the Jacques Cartier bridge. The initiative as to the type of structure required at this location rests with the recommendation by the province. Any provincial proposal will be carefully considered.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

INQUIRY AS TO FILLING OF VACANCIES IN REPRESENTATION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twilligate): I wonder if I could ask the Prime Minister whether the government expects soon to take steps to make sure that the electors in some parts of Canada will not be denied representation in this house for the whole of this session.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): I am always glad to notice the reformation which has taken place in the hon. gentleman. When the former government was in power—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Diefenbaker:—it failed to accept the admonitions of the hon. member who now presses for action. This government will see that in the proper course of events an opportunity will be provided for the various vacancies to be filled in the constitutional manner.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am rising on a question of personal privilege. The Prime Minister saw fit gratuitously to make a personal reference to me not founded on fact in any respect whatsoever. If the right hon. gentleman will search the whole of the record of