

*Supply—Justice*

on the Pigeon river border near Fort William at which point many thousands of tourists from the United States enter Canada every summer.

Our country has built up a great tourist business which is growing every year. Would it be asking too much of the government to consider an increase in the force in order to take care of this extra service, the expenditure for which would consist only of a very modest contribution toward the encouragement of the tourist industry in which both private enterprise and provincial governments have invested huge sums of money? Would the minister give an indication whether he is ready to consider this suggestion?

**Mr. Fulton:** I appreciate the interest shown by the hon. gentleman. This is a continuing problem for the force and it was dealt with specifically and quite conclusively in the last annual report for the year ended March 31, 1958 and if the hon. member would look at page 47 of that report I think he would see that a complete answer is given to the problems he has raised.

**Mr. Badanai:** The minister has not, however, given me any indication that the Pigeon river border area is being considered. That is not mentioned in the report.

**Mr. Fulton:** No, Mr. Chairman. I have not referred specifically to the Pigeon river area because that is only part of the larger problem of making R.C.M.P. personnel available as tourist attractions, and this problem was covered in the annual report to which I made reference.

**Mr. Pearson:** May I ask the minister one question regarding the proposed conference of the provincial attorneys general to discuss the contract which, I understand, has been postponed until the autumn. In view of the fact that one of these contracts is now before the courts, may I ask what it is proposed to discuss at this conference?

**Mr. Fulton:** I felt that one of the reasons why this conference should be postponed was because of the difficulty of discussing a matter which I felt we should discuss, namely the clause regarding reinforcements, while that clause was before the courts. That was one of the reasons why I found difficulty in holding the conference at the time we arranged it originally, namely late April or early May.

**Mr. Pearson:** Will the minister postpone this conference further if the case has not been completed?

**Mr. Fulton:** That is difficult to say. The original purpose of the conference was to

[Mr. Badanai.]

discuss the financial basis upon which the services of the police were made available to the provinces. Since the difficulty with Newfoundland arose it became evident to us, and it was our intention, that the conference should also devote specific attention to this difficult question of the reinforcement clause. I had hoped that feelings might die down—if I might use that expression—by the fall, and for that reason I discussed with a number of the attorneys general the postponement of the date and that was generally agreed to. In the meantime, however, legal action was started and that does make the whole position difficult. If the action to which the hon. gentleman referred should not be settled or disposed of shortly it may be that we shall have to see if we can have a conference in relation to the financial aspects of the matter, leaving the reinforcement question to be discussed later. That is a difficult situation to visualize. I do not think I can say very much more. We did not start the action, and I think I must leave it there.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** In a manner of speaking you did start it. The minister was going to read the telegram he sent to the mayor of St. John's.

**Mr. Fulton:** Yes. This telegram was not, in my view, a protest against the failure to send reinforcements, and for that reason it was not tabled in the return which was made. The hon. gentleman spoke to me about the matter yesterday and said that in his view it should be tabled.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I also asked the minister before I asked for the return and he agreed to table it.

**Mr. Fulton:** Yes, when the hon. gentleman spoke to me about it yesterday he drew my attention to the fact that earlier, in March, he had asked for the tabling of the telegram, and I suggested that in the circumstances rather than make a supplementary return now, I would simply table it in accord with the earlier request. That earlier request did not ask for a copy of my reply. That is why I did not include it. This is the reply. It is a telegram dated Ottawa, March 13, 1959, addressed to His Worship H.G.R. Mews, mayor of St. John's Newfoundland, and it reads:

Your telegram received and in reply I wish to assure you that all aspects of this situation including the effect of the move of constabulary from St. John's are before the government here and the whole situation is being continuously watched and urgently studied. Your representations will be drawn to the attention of my colleagues and given full weight.

It is signed: "E. D. Fulton, Minister of Justice".