

Inquiries of the Ministry

ask the Minister of Transport if it is a fact that one of the board of directors, not having sat in on any of the hearings, attended the final meeting, voted in favour of it, and at that time the chairman of the board was not even aware of the fact that he was a newly appointed member of the board, and did not find out until the coffee break?

Mr. Diefenbaker: That would be nothing abnormal for this government.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State. It arises out of a report on the C.B.C. screen yesterday of a sale that took place at Christie's, the famous art and antique sales market in London, of a chart drawn by Captain James Cook of the St. Lawrence river, including the area adjacent to Quebec, a chart actually used by General Wolfe in the assault on Quebec. Surprise was expressed in London that there had been no attempt on the part of the Canadian government or any Canadian body to seize the opportunity to obtain this historic chart. My question is this: Did the Canadian High Commissioner in London inform the government of this opportunity to acquire in centennial year a priceless piece of Canadiana for the National Archives? I might add that the bidding did not reach the owner's reserve price.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Later:]

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Your Honour did not give the Secretary of State an opportunity to answer the legitimate question I asked, and apparently she was prepared to do so.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member knows that the minister did not rise to answer the question. There was no attempt on my part to prevent the minister from answering.

TRANSPORT**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CAUSEWAY—
REDESIGNING AND RESCHEDULING
OF CONSTRUCTION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Speaker, since the house will not be sitting again for [Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South).]

some time perhaps I may be permitted to ask the Minister of Public Works a rather general question. Has the government yet come to a final decision with regard to a redesigned crossing to be built to Prince Edward Island across Northumberland strait, and has any decision been made respecting the schedule of construction? If the answer is no, and I expect it to be, could the minister give some indication of when he hopes such a decision to be arrived at by the government?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first two questions is no. In respect of the time of the proposed redesign and modifications now in the hands of the consultant, I cannot give an accurate estimate. I doubt very much that this will be placed before parliament until after it resumes. As the hon. member knows, I did indicate to the committee which considered these estimates that there would be an opportunity to discuss the matter when this information is available for study.

TRANSPORTATION**NOTIFICATION OF HEARINGS ON RAIL LINE
ABANDONMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. C. Cadieu (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Transport. When the transport commission holds its hearings in western Canada, particularly in Saskatchewan, will members of parliament, members of the provincial governments, representatives of the municipalities and others interested in rail line abandonment be notified of the dates and places of the hearings?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, according to the notice I received, the Board of Transport Commissioners has arranged a conference to be held in Winnipeg on August 8. I suggest that anyone who wishes to participate in or attend this conference should get in touch with the secretary of the board to ascertain its procedures. I am afraid I do not know now what they are, but I am sure the secretary would reply very promptly to any inquiry.

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, in respect of the conference to be held on August 8 in Winnipeg, will the results of the special technical surveys being done on certain branch lines be available to interested parties before that meeting?