

Inquiries of the Ministry

minister a question totally unrelated to the one I put to him a moment ago. On June 10 I asked the minister whether an agreement had yet been concluded with the government of Manitoba for federal assistance for a large highway program which I believe would start at Gypsumville and go north to the Hudson bay railway, or somewhere in that area, between the lakes. I wonder if any progress has been made.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, the two governments have agreed on the roads in question, involving a distance of some 800 or 900 miles. The province is already working on certain of the roads, but an agreement has not yet been signed.

Mr. Pickersgill: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is this part of the roads to resources program in Manitoba?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does that, then, limit the federal contribution to \$1,500,000 a year?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, the federal contribution is up to a maximum of \$1,500,000 a year and a total contribution of up to one-half of \$15 million over the period of the contract.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct another question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources arising out of the question raised by my friend the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River. Have any agreements under the roads to resources program been signed with any of the provincial governments?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Yes, Mr. Speaker; one.

Mr. Pickersgill: Has an agreement been signed with the province of Newfoundland?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): No, Mr. Speaker.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**FRANCE—STATEMENT ON REPORTED PROTEST AGAINST C.B.C. TELEVISION PROGRAM**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Leader of the Opposition asked me whether there was any foundation for the report that the premier of France found it necessary to summon the Canadian ambassador in order to protest the appearance of

two Algerian rebels on a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation television program. The hon. member requested, if the report were accurate, that I tell the house what stand was taken by the Canadian representative in respect of this matter.

The only publication that I have been able to find containing a report of this kind consisted of a letter published in the *Globe and Mail*, written by someone who obviously is not very friendly to France. The facts are that there was no such thing as the premier of France finding it necessary to summon the Canadian ambassador before him. There were protests made to the Canadian ambassador in Paris and also made in Ottawa by the French ambassador to Canada. In each case it was explained that the C.B.C. has an independent status in this country, so it is not just a matter of course that programs of this kind could be stopped by the government.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It is a fact then, is it not, that no action was taken by the government in respect of the request for these two Algerians to appear on the C.B.C.?

Mr. Green: The protests were drawn to the attention of the Minister of National Revenue, who reports to parliament for the C.B.C. Apparently protests of this kind have been made on earlier occasions by different countries.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of National Revenue whether he took any action in this matter?

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue): As I explained in another place, before the parliamentary committee,—and I brought in the name of the official—I received a telephone call from Mr. Norman Robertson, the Under-Secretary of State, who in the absence of his minister that day called me personally and said that the two protests—I believe that was the word he used—one in Paris and one of which he knew personally made by the French ambassador here had been brought to the department. He was passing this information on to me for such action as I thought was proper under the circumstances.

As a result I called the C.B.C. office and contacted Mr. Bushnell, the acting president, directly. I told him the message I had received from the Under-Secretary of State and advised him that he should take such action as the corporation saw fit in view of the nature of these protests.