

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CAUSEWAY—
RELEASE OF STANFORD RESEARCH
REPORT

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister advise whether the government has acceded to the request of the Premier of Prince Edward Island with reference to the release of the Stanford Research Institute report and the report of Colonel Edward Churchill on the Northumberland causeway, both of which documents the Prince Edward Island legislature wishes to have tabled and examined?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will have to ask the Minister of Public Works to provide me with the answer to those questions.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The question raised by the hon. member for Hillsborough relates, of course, in part at least to the notice of motion for production of papers which was accepted some weeks if not months ago. At that time an indication was given by the Minister of Transport, and I believe by the government house leader, that the only hold-up was in waiting for the consent of the Prince Edward Island government, which now seems to have been available for some little time. I wonder whether either the Minister of Transport or the Prime Minister would give the house the assurance that before we adjourn for the Easter break tomorrow these documents will be tabled and made available to the house?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated previously I do not think I referred specifically to the Prince Edward Island government; I referred to the provincial governments. My understanding is that as yet consent has not been received. Therefore, in accordance with the practice of the house I cannot give the undertaking requested without the necessary consent.

Mr. Macquarrie: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it not possible to regard a request from the Prince Edward Island government as a de facto indication of consent? They are asking for it.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): But I said "provincial governments"—plural.

Inquiries of the Ministry
INDUSTRY

**AUTOMOBILES—LOWER U.S. SALE PRICE
UNDER AGREEMENT**

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that the idea of the U.S.-Canada car pact was parity of price between cars made in Canada and cars made in the United States, could the minister explain to the house why the new Ford model known as the Maverick will be selling for approximately \$380 less in the United States than it will sell for in Canada, even though the car is made in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I doubt that the question is in order. The hon. member's question is rather in the form of an argument, and I do not think the time of the house should be devoted to arguments instead of questions at this time.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): I have a related question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Has the minister been given an explanation by the Ford Motor Company of the difference in price and been advised why a Canadian made automobile sells in the United States for \$380 less than its advertised price in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): It is the same question, Mr. Speaker, but it is not argumentative.

Mr. Speaker: I realize it is not an argument. Since I feel unhappy that the hon. member for Wellington did not receive an answer, perhaps the minister would reply to both questions.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, before asking for an explanation from the Ford Motor Company I asked for an explanation from my officials. First of all, if you deduct from the \$300 the difference in currency exchange and also the difference in sales tax, this reduces the amount to a little over \$100. The average differential in production cost between the two countries has been brought down from 9 per cent in 1964 to 3.8 per cent in 1969. A difference of about \$100 is equivalent to about 5 per cent. There is still the difference between 5 per cent and 3.8 per cent. I am meeting Mr. Scott, president of Ford Motors, on April 7, and either before or at that time I will bring this to his attention and ask for an explanation.