

Inquiries of the Ministry

1949. Can this information not be provided now? The public accounts committee is sitting, and it is necessary to have it.

Hon. F. G. Bradley (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the question to which the hon. member refers involves a considerable amount of research, and the gathering in of a lot of items. In addition several departments are involved. We have been endeavouring, particularly during the last couple of days, to speed the obtaining of this information, but it will still take a few days before we can bring it all together.

I suppose it often happens that questions are asked which cover a wider field than the member asking the question actually intended to cover. If the hon. member could restrict his question somewhat, we might produce at an earlier date the information he wants.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I do not think it should be necessary to restrict the question. All I ask for is the travelling and other expenses incurred by persons travelling for the government of Canada outside of Canada. That should be readily available.

Mr. Graydon: The books must be mixed up.

Mr. Bradley: I do not keep the books.

MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS—
TRAVELLING EXPENSES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough West): When the Secretary of State is getting the information requested by the member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker), will he get the answer to my question which was made an order for return on March 16? It concerns the travelling expenses of cabinet ministers and parliamentary assistants. I do not think it should need any research.

DOUKHOBORS

DAMAGING OF C.P.R. BRIDGE AT GRAND FORKS, B.C.
—REQUEST FOR MOUNTED POLICE ASSISTANCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. O. L. Jones (Yale): Mr. Speaker, in view of the worsening situation in the Grand Forks area of British Columbia, where the Doukhobor atrocities culminated in the blowing up of the Canadian Pacific Railway bridge at Grand Forks on Sunday night, and in view of the suggestions forwarded to the Minister of Justice by the Grand Forks council and board of trade, is the minister prepared to make a statement on this serious situation which has aroused the citizens of this area?

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): I wish to thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his question. The only information we have, other than that which has appeared in the press, is that on Monday morning, May 15, we received a telephone message from Mr. Mead, a former Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer who is advising the British Columbia government in this connection, to the effect that both ends of the Canadian Pacific Railway bridge at Grand Forks had been blown up with dynamite. It was believed that Doukhobors were responsible, and that it was an indication of defiance following the arrest of a number of Doukhobors a few days previously by the British Columbia police.

We received a telegram from the attorney general of British Columbia, Hon. Gordon Wismer, requesting that an officer and twenty men of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police be lent to the British Columbia police, because of the continued threat of violence in Doukhobor communities. The commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police instructed that members of the force from Alberta, to the numbers requested, should report to Nelson, British Columbia, where they will act under the direction of the commissioner of the British Columbia police, and Mr. Wismer was advised accordingly.

CANADA PRIZE ACT

PROVISION FOR PAYMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF
PRIZE MONEY

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence) moved the second reading of Bill No. 221, to provide for the payment and distribution of prize money.

He said: Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out yesterday, prize money dates from the thirteenth century. A reference to its antiquity was made in the London *Times* of December 20, 1945, where it was said:

For centuries the hope of prize was largely responsible for keeping the navy adequately manned. The reward of a successful engagement was the distribution among the crew of the value of the capture.

The arrangements for payment varied from time to time. Up to the great war of 1914-19, one-third of the value of ship and cargo taken as prize was kept by the crown; two-thirds were paid to the crew which actually made the capture. After the great war, however, the prize fund, consisting of two-thirds of the value of all prizes, was distributed not to the crew making the capture but among personnel of all His Majesty's navy on a graduated per capita basis. An admiral received two hundred and eighty-three times