

*Inquiries of the Ministry***THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****CO-OPERATION TO ACHIEVE STABILITY
IN PRICES AND WAGES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): May I ask the Minister of Finance a question. Have the leaders of management and labour now rejected the idea of voluntary guide lines which he put forward a few days ago?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): I have never used the words "guide lines" in any statement I have made, but I am confident that both management and labour will respond to the government's plea for restraint in present circumstances. It is most important to the jobs that men have and to the profitability of our industry that our costs and prices should not be rising as rapidly as they are.

Mr. Woolliams: Would the Minister of Finance confirm or deny, now, that this does not apply to people working in the public service?

Mr. Sharp: This is a question which, of course, will have to be dealt with in due course when we come to negotiate with the public service employees. I am quite sure they will be dealt with fairly, and I would expect that with respect to its own employees the government would have to apply the sort of policies which it advocates and will continue to advocate to the public in general.

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY**BROCKVILLE, ONT.—REQUEST FOR STEPS TO
OVERCOME REPORTED HAZARD**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey North): I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. Will the government take immediate action toward correcting the hazard which exists on that portion of the trans-Canada highway known as death alley, near Brockville, where five people were killed yesterday, bringing the total who have met death there to 16?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have some doubt whether this matter comes under federal responsibility. If it does, the minister might reply.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Under the trans-Canada highway agreement, and as a matter of law, responsibility for the highway falls within the ambit of the provincial governments. The federal

[Mr. Pearson.]

government makes a very substantial contribution toward the cost, but it does not lay out the routes.

Mr. Noble: I think if the minister could take some initiative, bring some pressure to bear on the provincial government, this real hazard—

Mr. Speaker: Order. We have only 30 minutes, and I have the impression that there are sufficient federal matters to be raised within that time without embarking on provincial ventures.

[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS**MONTREAL—EXTENSION OF METRO TO AID
EMPLOYMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the prime minister.

In view of the statement made by Premier Daniel Johnson yesterday in respect to the extension of the Montreal subway as a counter-measure against unemployment in the Montreal area, does the government intend to grant financial assistance to the government of Quebec or to the city of Montreal, as the case may be?

[English]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I certainly wish to take notice of that question.

FINANCE**SUGGESTED RESTORATION OF FLOATING
EXCHANGE RATE FOR CANADIAN DOLLAR**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance, and it is based on a news report yesterday with regard to transactions by the Bank of Canada in order to depress the Canadian dollar at least close to the pegged level. In view of the conflict that is bound to arise between these two obligations of our government, the maintenance of the reserve limit of \$2.6 billion, has the government considered instituting discussions with the International Monetary Fund with a view to restoring the floating exchange rate for the Canadian dollar?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): The answer, Mr. Speaker, is no.