

Inquiries of the Ministry
TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

INQUIRY AS TO AGREEMENT WITH PROVINCES AND
 BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Resources and Development. Will the minister inform the house what progress has been made in signing agreements with the provinces in respect of construction of the trans-Canada highway? Will he also tell the house when actual construction work will begin?

Mr. Speaker: With regard to these questions, I might say that I have allowed some latitude because questions on the order paper are not being answered. If I allow at this time questions which in the ordinary course would appear on the order paper, I hope that hon. members will not take advantage of my leniency.

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Resources and Development): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the house passed the act last session. Immediately after parliament prorogued there was a conference to discuss technical matters. That conference was very cordial and in my opinion a successful one. We continued discussions with the provinces on various points, including the choice of routes through their respective areas, and the discussions have progressed to the point where I hope to be able, within the course of the next few days, to send to all provinces a draft agreement.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

QUESTION AS TO ISSUE OF NEW GOVERNMENT
 TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough West): May I address a question to you, Mr. Speaker, or to the appropriate minister? I believe this matter comes under your jurisdiction, sir. I should like to ask when members of parliament will be supplied with a new telephone directory, showing the changes of telephone numbers of the new ministers, deputy ministers, and so forth. As things are at the present time there is much inconvenience.

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): I shall make inquiries and endeavour to give my hon. friend and hon. members generally the information as soon as possible.

[Mr. McLraith.]

FISHERIES

INQUIRY AS TO EXTENSION OF SMELT SEASON
 IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. W. Mayhew (Minister of Fisheries): Before the orders of the day were called yesterday, the hon. member for Queens asked me a question about the extension of the fishing season for smelts in Prince Edward Island. He did not send me notice of the question. I regret that I did not hear his question distinctly, but I am prepared to give him an answer now.

The fact is that we have no requests from the fishermen of Prince Edward Island for an extension of time. When the extension was being considered for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia we did make inquiries as to whether in Prince Edward Island they wanted an extension or not, and we found that there was no general demand for it.

Mr. McLure: I wish you had asked me.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO SETTING UP OF COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Victor Quelch (Acadia): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. I have not given him notice of the question, but I did not think he required it. In view of the fact that during the past fifteen years it has been customary to set up a special committee on veterans affairs at the start of each new parliament, will the minister give me the grounds for refusing to set up that committee this session? I should like to remind the minister that this is the second session of a new parliament.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Unless the minister particularly wishes to answer that question, it seems to me to be a controversial one which could be reserved for later. I did say that in respect to questions on the orders of the day I was allowing considerable latitude at this time, but I hope that hon. members will not, for that reason, refrain from putting questions on the order paper which should appear thereon and will ask only such questions as are urgent when the orders of the day are called.

Mr. Quelch: Numbers of us have received several telegrams. We thought the minister would like to have an opportunity of answering them.