

Inquiries of the Ministry

Is it true that the Canadian National is planning to close up the upstream car lane of that bridge for at least four months and the other and downstream vehicular traffic lanes for a period of twelve months? If so, does the minister intend to lodge a protest with the Canadian National against the disastrous delays which would ensue for those who will have to travel between the southern bank and Montreal?

(Text):

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will get in touch with the management of Canadian National Railways. I am not aware of the matter the hon. member has raised. I have not heard about it. I will ask them to report as soon as possible.

(Translation):

Mr. Loiselle: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question? Has not the hon. minister seen press reports stating that there has been talk, in the last few days, of closing up the two vehicular lanes on Victoria bridge?

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: Order. It hardly seems to be a matter of urgent public importance to inquire what the minister has read in the newspapers, particularly as he has taken the original question as notice.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

REPORTED REDUCTION IN DEPARTMENTAL ESTIMATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. A. Hardie (Mackenzie River): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Can the minister tell the house whether there is any truth in the report in yesterday's *Ottawa Citizen* that the estimates of his department for 1959 have been cut by an amount of \$25 million?

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me that that hon. member's question relates to the estimates, and it is a well known principle that such inquiries cannot be made in anticipation of the production of the estimates.

CANADA CAR

REPORTED CLOSING OF FORT WILLIAM PLANT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister on a matter of great concern to my constituency and the lakehead area. Has the Prime Minister any word on the

closing of the Canada Car plant in Fort William? Is the government contemplating any action to keep the plant open?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, in reply to that question may I say that discussions have been taking place, but as yet we have no report to make.

OLD AGE SECURITY

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT BY DR. ROBERT CLARK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. This is the first opportunity I have had to address him since he came back, and I am glad to see him looking so well. My question is, in view of the indication given by the Prime Minister on August 21 last that Dr. Clark's study of social security would be available last fall, I think in October, has the government received a report and recommendations from Dr. Clark and, if so, whether the government is prepared to make them available to the house.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, first I do want to thank my hon. friend for giving me a certification of good health from a medical man. In reply to his question, may I say that on a number of occasions in the last few months the minister concerned and myself have been in touch with Dr. Clark who has been preparing a report. In the latter part of last session he felt that it would be available around the middle or latter part of October. Since that time it has become impossible, by reason of personal family matters, for him to complete it. It is a rather lengthy document. He has about three-fifths of it completed and the balance, which will mean the tabling of the report, should be expected by February 9.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

NEWFOUNDLAND—INQUIRY AS TO REVISION OF FINANCIAL TERMS OF UNION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. W. Carter (Burin-Burgeo): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister set any date for a meeting with the premier of Newfoundland in connection with the revision of the financial terms of union? If so, could he inform the house when the meeting will take place.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): There has been certain correspondence between the premier and myself. At the beginning of the week I sent a telegram to the premier, after receipt of a telegram from him proposing a meeting with the federal