

Inquiries of the Ministry

in the committee studies with respect to the Canada Pension Plan we were told that these overages paid by the employer were part of the actuarial picture.

Mr. Benson: All contributions coming in under the Canada Pension Plan were taken into consideration in developing the amount involved. The amount of employers' contributions which would be refundable, if a method to do so could be worked out, would amount to around \$5 million a year.

Mr. Monteih: I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If this were done and, for example, a method were worked out to refund the employers' share, would this affect the calculation of the whole plan?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is becoming a debate between the minister and the hon. member who asked the question. I suggest we go on to another subject.

TRANSPORT**WELLAND CANAL—INQUIRY AS TO BYPASS CONSTRUCTION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. R. Tolmie (Welland): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Transport. It is of the utmost importance to the operations of the St. Lawrence seaway as well as to the city of Welland that we should know as soon as possible whether the proposed Welland canal bypass is going to be built. Can the minister tell us what progress has been made in this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Order This question is obviously important and perhaps it is urgent but I still feel it should go on the order paper.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**GEORGE VICTOR SPENCER—REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL INQUIRY**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Prime Minister whether the government has made any decision yet respecting the setting up of a commission to investigate the Spencer matter. The right hon. gentleman said he expected a decision would be made in a few days. That was, I think, some ten days ago.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as I said the other day, it was hoped that the estimates of the Department of Justice would be before the house early this week or during this week.

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Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pearson: That is what I said in the house the other day and I repeat it now. I said that when the estimates were introduced I would make a statement on this subject which could then be debated by hon. members.

Mr. Diefenbaker: My question was a simple one. Has a decision been made on this matter? A discussion of the subject can, of course, be undertaken when the estimates of the Minister of Justice are before us. But a question involving a person who is being followed day and night under continual surveillance should not be brushed aside.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the importance of setting up the commission of inquiry into the Spencer case without delay, would the Prime Minister not consider bringing on the estimates of the Department of Justice this afternoon just for a few moments, during which he would have the opportunity to make his statement?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the best way of reaching the estimates of the Department of Justice is by finishing as quickly as possible the estimates of the department now before the committee.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

[Later:]

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Prime Minister whether he realizes that the estimates of the Department of Justice will be the twelfth department to come before the committee of supply, which probably means that the Spencer case will not be dealt with until the end of next week? In view of that fact, will the Prime Minister consider having the estimates of the Department of Justice come up for consideration earlier, perhaps right after the estimates of the Department of Transport?

Mr. Pearson: I will be glad to look into that suggestion, Mr. Speaker.

EXPO '67**MONTREAL—POSSIBLE STRIKE OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes asked me a