

Inquiries of the Ministry

reading them. I will be very glad to let the hon. member see them; they are here for any member to read. Then he goes on to say:

Although the intent of the question was to determine the ethnic groups to which individuals belonged, in the 1951 census of Canada a total of 152,000 people insisted that their origin was "Canadian", "U.S.A." or "Unknown".

I have here the instructions for the enumerators for the census to be held next year. They are almost identical to those given out to the enumerators for the 1951 census, with some clarification of points that bothered enumerators at that time and are small points of clarification. On the form which the enumerator has, which is at all times in the enumerator's possession, and is not shown to the person being questioned, there is a line marked "Canadian" and a number of other racial origins. This had to be written in, as I say, a total of 152,000 times in the 1951 census. This is simply to make things easier for those doing the enumerating. So I think the hon. member and all members of the house will agree that the census at this time will be carried out in the identical manner in which it was carried out in 1951, the only difference being that there is a line on which to put the origin "Canadian" when it is insisted upon, a classification which was authorized by the previous government prior to the census of 1951.

HIGHWAYS**ALASKA-B.C.—INQUIRY AS TO PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can he give the house any information regarding the progress of negotiations between Canada and the United States concerning the so-called marine highway between the panhandle of Alaska and Prince Rupert, B.C.?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Informal discussions, but not negotiations, have taken place with the United States concerning the proposed Alaska marine highway which, as the hon. member knows, lies through American waters, at least for most of the way. Until now, useful negotiations could not, in fact, take place.

However, on November 11 the Battelle institute reported to the United States Alaska international rail and highway commission. This report favoured the institution of the proposed ferry system. Furthermore, on November 8 a plebiscite took place in the state of Alaska with respect to the borrowing of funds which would be necessary for this purpose. The final results of the plebiscite are

not yet available but as of today there is a slim majority in favour of borrowing money for this marine highway. The final result will not be available for about a week.

Mr. Howard: I wonder if I could ask the minister whether the part that Canada will play in these arrangements as far as ferry facilities are concerned would be conducted through the office of the Secretary of State for External Affairs or through the Department of Public Works?

Mr. Green: I expect that both departments would be concerned.

IMMIGRATION**REFERENCE TO REPORTED STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been drawn to a statement attributed in the press to the Secretary of State, which reads as follows:

He accused the Liberals of trying to "anglicize" French Canada by bringing over more immigrants from the British Isles than from any other European country.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the hon. member's intention is simply to ask the Prime Minister whether he has seen a report in the papers, that is not a matter of urgent public importance. If he has a question to ask relating to the report, will he please ask his question.

Mr. Pickersgill: I have a question to ask relating to the report in the paper, but it would not be intelligible without reading from the report. There are, I submit, many precedents for asking such questions.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is entitled to state whatever facts are necessary in order to base his question concisely.

Mr. Pickersgill: I continue from the point I had reached. This is in quotation marks: "They tried to eliminate the French Canadians for the benefit of the English", he said.

Prime Minister Diefenbaker, he added, had promptly closed the door on this immigration and was trying to offset the Liberal "anglicization" by fostering immigration from Italy.

The question I wanted to ask the right hon. gentleman was whether his colleague was actually speaking for him on this occasion.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry; I did not hear to whom the statement was attributed.

Mr. Pickersgill: The statement, Mr. Speaker, was attributed to the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Dorion) after he became Secretary of State for Canada. It was reported in a