

Inquiries of the Ministry

there is satisfactory housing available at Cornwall at present for the influx of a large number of employees.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. Is it not a fact that during the course of the election campaign the minister made a statement that the headquarters building would be at Cornwall, and that it would house from 250 to 300 men?

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I have here a copy of the telegram I sent during the election campaign, and it reads as follows:

A decision was made several years ago to establish the headquarters of the St. Lawrence seaway at Cornwall and over \$1 million has been spent to provide office accommodation. There has been no change in this policy and I know of no reason why there should be.

Mr. Chevrier: I thank the minister for making that statement, but would he answer my questions, which were two in number? Did he not state during the election campaign, first, that the headquarters of this authority would be at Cornwall, and second that the number of employees would be 250 to 300?

Mr. Hees: As I stated, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think that is not the type of question to be asked on the orders of the day.

WELLAND CANAL—STATEMENT ON TRANSFER OF CONTROL AND OPERATION TO SEAWAY AUTHORITY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday I stated in reply to a question by the hon. member for Welland that the Welland ship canal would come under the authority of the St. Lawrence seaway authority, and in a supplementary question the hon. member asked if this also applied to land. I said it was my impression that it did but would make further inquiries.

I have now confirmed that the Welland canal lands will be transferred to the seaway authority.

Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland): I wonder if I could ask the minister a question arising out of his answer. Will the employees on the Welland ship canal continue as civil servants with their present rights?

Mr. Hees: I know of no plans for any change.

[Mr. Hees.]

OLD AGE SECURITY

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF DR. ROBERT CLARK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that some months ago, on January 24, 1958, the Prime Minister indicated that Professor Huson's resignation was accepted because it was most urgent to have the report on the United States old age pension system in three or four months, would he table Professor Robert M. Clark's report on this matter before we consider the estimates of the Department of National Health and Welfare?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can understand the interest of the hon. gentleman in this prospective report. I have been in communication with Dr. Clark with respect to this matter. He has worked very hard and diligently and is doing his best to achieve a report at the earliest possible date. He has given intensive study to this question and indicates to me that, as far as he can foresee, there is no prospect of that report being available before early in October at the soonest. He has done everything possible to bring in a report within the period which I believed would be sufficient, but I am sure we would expect him to bring in that kind of report which will be as complete and comprehensive as are the terms upon which he was appointed.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillington): I would like to ask a supplementary question. Does the Prime Minister feel this report, which was considered on January 24 as being very urgent, has within the last three or four months lost its urgency?

Mr. Diefenbaker: I can understand the feeling of urgency on the part of the hon. gentleman, but I seem to remember that the party to which he belongs promised health insurance back as far as 1919.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES—SUGGESTED CANADIAN PLEA ON BEHALF OF ALABAMA CITIZEN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erhart Regier (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Prime Minister. In view of the government's recent commendable action in protesting the execution of the former Hungarian premier, will the government consider sending a plea to either the President of the United States or the governor of Alabama