

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

regard, that the road to hell is paved with studies, reports and surveys but certainly not with action.

It is passing strange that in this year's estimates there was an allocation of some \$500,000 to begin and perhaps complete construction of this causeway link. Somehow or other the government seems unwilling to implement its own budgetary allocations. Was the government serious when it allocated that amount of money for the construction of a causeway, or was it engaged in some kind of sophisticated deceit? If it was deceit, it certainly is dishonest if not criminal.

There has also been haggling over the site where this proposed causeway should be located. Apparently one government position favours the establishment of a causeway link toward the opposite shore to that normally traversed by the Indian community. This would create considerable hardship if not the impossibility of transportation during the winter months. The only site acceptable to the vast majority of the people of the Lennox Island Indian reservation is that normally traversed to and from Port Hill or in that neighbourhood.

It does not seem to me that it would take very much imagination or engineering know-how to construct an adequate causeway to and from Lennox Island to the Port Hill area. This would give a full and complete opportunity to the people of the Lennox Island Indian reservation to engage in the cultural and social economy of Prince Edward Island, and to continue to deny them this is something that neither I nor the people of Lennox Island Indian reserve will accept. When is this government finally going to act?

Mr. Judd Buchanan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry to hear the news concerning the destruction of the ferry this evening. Certainly the hon. member's information is in advance of mine. As the hon. member has indicated, the proposal to construct a bridge from Lennox Island to the mainland of Prince Edward Island has been under almost continuous review since 1965.

The resident population of Lennox Island approximates 270 persons, and as the hon. member is well aware, the community is considered to be of a permanent nature. Up until this evening transportation had been provided by a ferry supplied by the department. The Department of Public Works has agreed to provide the necessary design services for this project and the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, in co-operation with the provincial government, had agreed to provide the access road and approach to the Prince Edward Island side of the bridge.

To permit construction of the bridge, the department provided \$250,000 in its 1971-72 estimates and forecast an additional expenditure of \$250,000 in 1972-73. The intention was that this would be for a single-lane structure which could be designed and in respect of which tenders would be called during the early summer of 1971. However, soil tests revealed that the design of the sub-structure will be much more complex and expensive than had been anticipated.

[Mr. MacDonald (Egmont).]

New cost estimates are not yet complete. Preliminary calculations, however, indicate that a revised budget of \$750,000 may be necessary, which is approximately a 50 per cent increase over the budgeted figures. The department is currently discussing the matter with the Department of Regional Economic Expansion to see whether some agreement can be reached to cover this increased cost.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS—FOOD PRICE INCREASES—ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE ON LOW INCOMES TO MAINTAIN GOOD NUTRITION

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, on June 15, just before the House rose for the summer recess, I drew attention to the fact that the April to May increase in the cost of food was the greatest for that period in six years. I asked the government if it was prepared to consider a measure to help in respect of the nutrition of low-income families across Canada which were in immediate need. Since then the month of July has provided the greatest food cost increase for that month since 1967. In August the Canadian Dairy Commission raised the price of butter. The price of fresh fruits and vegetables is higher this year. We have had months of great distress caused by very high levels of unemployment. I am still awaiting an answer to my question.

Today we spent hours debating a measure to provide \$80 million to help business concerns in this country which are threatened with hardship by the recent import surcharge imposed by the United States. The government urges immediate action to help these firms. However, when it is a question of measures to prevent the physical and mental deterioration of people, it is another story. The government can find no money to help these people. Oh, yes, the government knows very well what is required for good nutrition. Again today I obtained a copy of Canada's food rules. These rules state that in order to keep well, people must have milk in quantities varying from a cup and a half per day for an adult to four cups a day for adolescents and expectant mothers. There should be two servings of fruit or juice, including a satisfactory source of vitamin C, including tomatoes, oranges and vitaminized apple juice. There should also be one serving of potatoes and two servings of other vegetables, preferably yellow or green and often raw. In addition there should be one serving of bread with butter or fortified margarine and one serving of whole grain cereal.

These food rules state that people should have one serving of meat, fish or poultry and should eat liver occasionally. Eggs, cheese, dried beans or peas may be used in place of meat. In addition, there should be eggs and cheese each at least three times per week. There should be 400 international units of vitamin D for all growing persons and expectant and nursing mothers per day.

Mr. Speaker, this government provides food rules and at the same time neglects to provide measures to guarantee the people on low income any means of providing themselves with the necessary food. This is a sham, a mockery and an avoidance of the responsibility of proper government in this country.