

Inquiries of the Ministry

5. Were all completed sections of trans-Canada highway, on which federal contributions were paid, inspected by federal engineers?

PRIVATE RESEARCH—FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Question No. 189—Mr. Johnson (Kindersley):

1. How much money was spent by the government in financing research by private firms for the fiscal year 1954-55?

2. What percentage of money so spent goes to large corporations or firms employing over 500 workers?

3. Has the government given any consideration to ways and means of making more contracts for such work available to smaller businesses?

4. Are firms concerned in these projects permitted to patent and control inventions developed as a result of such research?

5. Does the government share in royalties from the sale of such inventions?

SPONGES AND CHAMOIS—FEDERAL CONTRACTS

Question No. 201—Mr. Knowles:

1. From January 1, 1954 to June 30, 1956, how many contracts were let by the government for the procurement of natural sponges, cellulose sponges and chamois?

2. With respect to each such contract, (a) what were the exact items supplied; (b) in what quantity; (c) what were the prices; (d) who were the suppliers; (e) which were the procuring departments; (f) what was the date of each such contract?

HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE EXPENDITURES

Question No. 203—Mr. McCulloch (Pictou):

1. What is the estimated total federal government expenditure for the fiscal year 1957-1958 on roads, bridges and grade separations?

2. Of the total amount, approximately how much will be paid to provincial governments; and how much directly by the federal government for work under its jurisdiction?

FURNITURE PURCHASES & SALES

Question No. 204—Mr. Fraser (Peterborough):

1. What office equipment, such as desks, chairs, filing cabinets, etc., has been purchased by the government since January 1, 1956?

2. What was the value of this equipment?

3. Has any or all of it been disposed of through Crown Assets Disposal Corporation or by any other means?

4. If so, to what firms or individuals was it sold?

5. What quantity was sold to each individual or firm, and at what price in each case?

HEALTH INSURANCE

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON CONFERENCE
WITH TREASURER OF ONTARIO

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare if he is now in a position to make a statement on his conference this morning with the provincial treasurer of Ontario regarding the proposed hospital insurance plan?

[Mr. McCulloch (Moose Mountain).]

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I hope my hon. friend will not be disappointed if I say we had a very satisfactory conference and that I am confident that within the text of the federal proposals we can look forward to an agreement in the future with the province of Ontario.

Mr. Knowles: May I ask a supplementary question? In view of the answer the minister has given, can he now answer my question of yesterday as to how soon the house will proceed to debate the resolution having to do with the federal government's proposals?

Mr. Martin: My hon. friend knows that the program of the government is announced by the house leader and I hope he will be in the house when that is done.

Mr. Knowles: The minister knows I will be.

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is it not a fact that perhaps a little over half an hour ago he released to the press a quite full report of the discussions between himself and the provincial treasurer of Ontario held this morning? If it is a fact, why is it that the House of Commons is not entitled to as full information as the press received in that press conference?

Mr. Martin: My hon. friend is only half correct. There was a joint release by the treasurer of the province of Ontario and the Minister of National Health and Welfare, and I shall be very glad to repeat it for the benefit of my hon. friend. I think this is consistent with what I said to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. The release simply said:

At a meeting held in Ottawa this morning between Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, and Hon. Dana Porter, treasurer of Ontario, an understanding was reached on the essential terms to be embodied in a formal agreement establishing hospital insurance in Ontario. The principal point under discussion concerning the interpretation to be placed upon the requirement of universal availability was satisfactorily resolved. Confirmation of the details relating to the understanding reached on the various points discussed will be provided through subsequent exchanges between the governments concerned.

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

BRITISH WEST INDIES—EXTENSION OF ASSISTANCE
AND MAINTENANCE OF TRADING POSITION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. R. Balcom (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister? Is the Prime Minister in a position to indicate