

Inquiries of the Ministry

time the single rate is \$60 which was the amount asked for by the various organizations throughout the country.

ROYAL VISITREPORTED VISIT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
AND PRINCE PHILIP

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister if he would comment on a press release of today to the effect that the Queen and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, are likely to visit Canada this coming autumn?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): No, I cannot comment on these speculative stories, and I think it would be quite improper to make any statement about them until a formal decision has been reached, which will then be announced.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Broadview.

Mr. Hees: The hon. member for Eglinton just beat me to it.

BROADCASTINGINQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ROYAL
COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. G. Hansell (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister if he can confirm the report which came over the air at noon that the Fowler commission report would be presented to parliament within the next 24 hours?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): No, I cannot. My latest information, and I hope it will be possible that the expectations that have been raised in my mind will be fulfilled, is that the report might be tabled on Thursday, March 28.

IRRIGATIONSOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER—INQUIRY AS TO
DOMINION-PROVINCIAL MEETING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the premier of Saskatchewan requested a meeting with the federal government to discuss the building of the South Saskatchewan dam and, if so, will such meeting be held?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, the premier of Saskatchewan has not requested a meeting. The premier of Saskatchewan has said that

when we inform him that we are ready to proceed with the undertaking he will be glad to meet us to discuss the distribution of the cost of the project.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Speaker, since the government has made the welcome announcement that it is prepared to assist in electric power development in the maritimes, is the government prepared now to assist the South Saskatchewan river project in order to increase power development on the prairies?

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): The announcement with respect to the maritime provinces concerned the establishment of something that was looked upon as an undertaking that would be self-supporting, and there is no such element involved in the project concerning the South Saskatchewan dam.

HARBOURSMONTREAL—REPORTED ARRANGEMENTS FOR EARLY
ICEBREAKING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the department considering the use of an icebreaker convoy this year to force open the port of Montreal early, and, if so, will the cost of that convoy be met by the shipping companies or by the federal treasury?

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have heard nothing which would provide any foundation for the report which the hon. gentleman has just given the house.

Mr. A. J. Brooks (Royal): I should like to ask the Minister of Transport a supplementary question with reference to the question asked by the hon. member for Saint John-Albert. Is he aware that officials of the transport department have suggested that it may be necessary to use an icebreaker convoy for ships coming through the gulf of St. Lawrence because of the ice situation? I should also like to ask him how many icebreakers have been employed this season in the St. Lawrence river clearing the channel for the opening of the port of Montreal, how long it has taken and by how many weeks it has advanced the opening of that port.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Brooks: Hon. members may laugh, but it is a very important matter, and I should like to have an answer from the minister.

An hon. Member: How many questions in one?