

## Supply—Transport

the boats that were lost. However, two new diesel cargo vessels were put into operation some few years ago: the *Canadian Constructor* and the *Canadian Cruiser*, both of which operate in the West Indies. There are a number of passenger vessels. There are about ten vessels in operation. But there is no provision for new vessels; and until the position with reference to trade alters to indicate a greater movement of trade from the West Indies to Canada, I am afraid that the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships will not be in a position to build, to purchase or to assign new vessels to this route.

**Mr. Black (Cumberland):** I understand then from the minister that the steamers now available are able to handle all the traffic that can be expected between Canada and the West Indies.

**Mr. Chevrier:** That is right.

**Mr. Fulton:** On a point of order, I suggest with deference, that items 493 and 495 should not be carried by this committee at the present time, because they were referred on Wednesday, April 11, by motion introduced by the minister himself, to the sessional committee on railways and shipping. I have just looked up the terms of the resolution which is to be found at page 1991 of *Hansard*. It reads in part as follows:

And that the resolution passed by the house on March 12, 1951, referring certain estimates to the committee of supply, be rescinded in so far as the said resolution relates to votes Nos. 493, 495 and 501.

I would imagine the proper procedure would be that you might discuss it but not actually carry it until the sessional committee had completed its work.

**Mr. Chevrier:** I think the point of order raised by the hon. member is well taken. It is the practice to withdraw these items and refer them to the committee on railways and shipping, and that is what I indicated to the hon. member for Queens a moment ago. I said that the information was not available but I would get it for him when the committee was sitting. The point is well taken.

**Mr. Fulton:** I do not think we should actually carry them. We should discuss them but not carry them.

**The Chairman:** Items 493, 495 and 501 will stand.

Items stand.

496. Strait of Canso—transportation improvements and facilities—capital, \$1,000,000.

**Mr. Black (Cumberland):** This is an interesting item. The sum of \$2 million was voted in the previous year, and a million dollars is

now being voted for transportation improvements and facilities in Canso strait. Can the minister explain what has been done with the money which was voted in the previous year, and what does he propose to do with the million dollars now being asked for?

**Mr. Chevrier:** With reference to the \$2 million to which my hon. friend refers, none of that was spent. That was put into the estimates last year in order to provide for the construction of the low-level bridge. There is an item of \$1 million in the estimates this year to provide for the construction of that bridge should the board of engineers, which has been reconvened, recommend that the project be proceeded with along the lines of the plan submitted by the engineering expert, Dr. Pratley.

**Mr. Black (Cumberland):** Can the minister give us any further information as to when we may expect a report from the engineers who have been reconvened?

**Mr. Chevrier:** I hope it will be before the session has completed its work.

**Mr. Drew:** Does it then represent an accumulated \$3 million for this work?

**Mr. Chevrier:** No. The \$2 million not having been spent just lapsed, and this is a revote in part of the \$2 million. It is \$1 million. None of the \$3 million has been spent so far.

Item agreed to.

497. Enlargement of dock and terminal facilities at North Sydney, N.S.—capital, \$1,660,000.

**Mr. Black (Cumberland):** May I have a statement from the minister with respect to what work is being carried on at North Sydney? Was it let by contract? Who are the contractors? What expenditures will be made before the works that have been authorized will be completed?

**Mr. Chevrier:** This is the terminal and dock facilities at North Sydney which are being built in preparation for the new ferry which is also mentioned in another item. The estimated cost of the enlargement of the docks and terminal facilities at North Sydney will amount to \$2,630,000. There is included in these estimates for the construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and new equipment for the present fiscal term, \$1,660,000. It is impossible to complete the whole of the works during this fiscal year.

**Mr. Black (Cumberland):** Has this work been let at tender?

**Mr. Chevrier:** Yes, it has.

**Mr. Black (Cumberland):** At a fixed amount?