

Mr. Crosbie: Madam Speaker, the people of Newfoundland know what the minister is trying to do to them, and that is to reduce their transportation services and to put the squeeze on the Newfoundland government to say "eliminate a service here and then spend the money somewhere else". These are all vital services in Newfoundland. We cannot sacrifice a ferry service for a road.

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TRANSPORT

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY STRENGTHENING PROGRAM

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is this: will the Minister of Transport tell the House whether or not he is going to enter into a new primary highway strengthening agreement with Newfoundland and with the other three Atlantic provinces this year? Or has a decision been made that the Government of Canada will not contribute to road improvement spending in the provinces any longer, that, it is merely a matter to be left to DREE or not to be done by the Government of Canada at all? The agreement expired at the end of March and it is vital for these provinces now to know whether they will have any help in improving the Trans-Canada or their primary highway.

● (1450)

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, on the new or second primary highway strengthening program, a decision has not been made. This is exactly what we are trying to work out with the government of Newfoundland. There are some savings to be made. There is a need to use whatever money is available in the most efficient way. The government of Newfoundland understands that and is willing to negotiate with us in that spirit. If more money is available by way of increasing the size of the envelope or what is in the envelope, so much the better. But we have to go at this two ways; if possible, increase the amount of money going to transportation in Newfoundland, and at the same time take advantage of any savings that can be effected by way of the best use of the money available.

Mr. Crosbie: Ten o'clock.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

MISSING TASCHEREAU COMMISSION PAPERS AND MACKENZIE KING DIARY

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General who, I am sure, will know that Canadians accord considerable importance to the role the Taschereau papers and the Mackenzie King documents would have in clearing up some of the uncertainties surrounding the issues involved. I am wondering whether the minister could say why he and his colleagues

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appear to be so indifferent to the disappearance of these documents. Is he relaxed or indifferent because he is satisfied the documents have been spirited away somewhere, have been destroyed and hence are unfindable, or does he believe the embarrassment they might cause certain people could be avoided through some other method?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, while I am, of course, interested in this, I think it fair to note that my interest is more historical than political since the fact that these documents were missing from the material I have read was first noted by Jack Pickersgill in 1947. Their so-called disappearance has been a matter of record for a very long time.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, I am not sure whether the minister was referring to the Taschereau papers or the Mackenzie King documents, because there were the two sets. In any event, I wonder whether he can assure the House that there is an inquiry going on within his department or in the Department of the Secretary of State to make sure every possible clue is being followed up to find out where these documents might be.

Mr. Kaplan: Madam Speaker, the inquiry which is under way now is one I have described in the House already. It is an examination being done of the Taschereau-Kellock material, the transcripts of the Gouzeko investigation, to ascertain whether the release of that information and those documents would violate the privacy of any individual, contrary to the government's policy in respect of personal privacy. I indicated that that inquiry would be completed, I hope, within a month or two and that the government would have the recommendations of the official doing the work and be prepared then to make a statement about whether the Taschereau-Kellock papers would be made public.

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POST OFFICE

MAIL DELIVERY TO NEWLY DEVELOPED HOUSING SUBDIVISIONS

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. He has solved one of my problems and I thank him very much. I would like to ask him when people in fast growing areas such as Mississauga North and South, Brampton-Georgetown, and La Prairie, the riding of my colleague in Montreal, where subdivisions are growing at a rapid rate, can expect to start receiving this service they are paying for through their taxes, but have not been receiving at all for two years?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General): Madam Speaker, under the latest Post Office estimates, it will be possible to add a number of postmen to provide services in some areas in Canada