

HIGHWAYS

BRITISH COLUMBIA—FEDERAL ASSISTANCE IN CONSTRUCTION THROUGH YELLOWHEAD PASS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stuart A. Fleming (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. Will the minister please advise the house when he will be in a position to announce the government's intention regarding participation in the announced program of the B.C. government to construct a highway through the mountains by the Yellowhead route?

Hon. J. P. Deschatelets (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to answer this question today, but I shall do so as soon as possible.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.—ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR MEN TO BE LAID OFF

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Defence Production based on newspaper reports of the minister's recent statements to delegations from Prince Edward Island. In view of the early closing of the Enamel and Heating aircraft repair and overhaul plant in Charlottetown, is the minister now in a position to advise whether he has been able to arrange for any alternative employment for the men of this plant so soon to become unemployed?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, aware of the difficult situation in Charlottetown, the Department of Defence Production is directing its energies to exploring all possible avenues of additional work.

BRITISH COLUMBIA—EMPLOYMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE RECIPIENTS ON WINTER WORKS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether he can give me any information regarding the question I asked yesterday. In view of the fact a number of municipal winter works incentive projects which have been approved may have to be dropped, this matter is of considerable importance and urgency.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I can tell my hon. friend that a

Inquiries of the Ministry

copy of the circular letter to which he referred yesterday was received in the Department of Labour. I should mention also that in the past the province of British Columbia has added a 25 per cent payment as its contribution to municipal winter works programs. In addition, I understand the province has also made a further, additional 25 per cent contribution, bringing the total governmental participation, federal and provincial, up to 100 per cent on approved projects in respect of persons who have been previously in receipt of unemployment assistance for a stated period.

This is the situation as I understand it. I am not clear from the letter I read this morning whether there is a fundamental change proposed in this procedure from what was followed in the past. No projects have been approved for the forthcoming municipal works program, so that whatever proposals come forward will be examined for approval here in Ottawa.

CANADIAN FLAG

MEETING OF PARTY LEADERS TO DISCUSS DESIGN

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Prime Minister a question about the Canadian flag.

Would the Prime Minister agree to a meeting of the leaders of the five political parties represented in the House of Commons to discuss the Canadian flag?

That meeting would be called to reach a unanimous decision on the choice of a distinctive Canadian flag, other than the three maple leaves, which would then be submitted to the house by the Speaker, in order to dissociate that matter from any political partisanship—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Valade: —and that, within a set period.

[Text]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we have already had useful meetings with the party leaders, and I hope this procedure can be continued.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. There was no question raised at this one meeting or at any meeting regarding the nature, kind and design of a flag. I am sure the Prime Minister, in