

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, February 21, 1961

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

PRIVILEGE

MR. SEVIGNY—REFERENCE TO REMARKS IN DEBATE ON FEBRUARY 20

Hon. Pierre Sevigny (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Yesterday during the orders of the day the hon. member for Laurier, in a supplementary question asked of the Minister of Public Works, stated that during a speech I made at Dorion last Friday I had protested the proposed route which is tentatively planned to go through Ile aux Tourtres instead of Ile Perrot in Vaudreuil-Soulanges.

The point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, is that I never protested this proposed route. In fact the only comment I made during the speech was that I would say nothing about this proposed route in view of the fact that I knew nothing about the matter. As usual the former member for Stormont was misinformed, and I wish to correct this matter.

MR. WOOLLIAMS—CLARIFICATION OF REMARKS IN DEBATE ON FEBRUARY 20

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege in reference to a statement I made in debate as reported at page 2214 of *Hansard* of yesterday in connection with my remarks about Mr. Clarence Fines, former Saskatchewan provincial treasurer. I want to make it clear to all that I did not imply or intend to imply that any money which Mr. Fines may have made was made from his job or position as provincial treasurer of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Benidickson: I think the hon. member has made a necessary statement.

RAILWAYS, CANALS AND TELEGRAPH LINES

Second report of standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines—Mr. Howe.

WATER RESOURCES

STATEMENT RESPECTING OIL POLLUTION OFF ATLANTIC COAST

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a statement concerning oil pollution off the Atlantic coast of Canada. On

September 1 of last year I issued a press release announcing that the government intended, under the international convention for the prevention of the pollution of the sea by oil, 1954, to extend to 100 miles, the maximum allowed under the convention, the zone off the Atlantic coast of Canada within which ships may not discharge oil. At the present time the zone is 50 miles.

I am pleased to inform the house that no other contracting government has opposed the extension, and consequently extension of the prohibited zone from 50 to 100 miles off the east coast of Canada will take effect on February 25.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the extension will have the effect of substantially reducing oil pollution on the Atlantic coast. Reports of oil pollution have indicated that hundreds of thousands of sea birds are being killed annually by floating oil in the Newfoundland area; that beaches, piers and craft are being fouled, and that damage is being done to lobster fisheries. The situation will be closely watched by the Department of Transport, the department responsible for administering the oil pollution prevention regulations, to see whether a diminution of pollution takes place after the extension comes into force. If not, more stringent international controls may be required to cope with the problem. In this connection it is proposed that a conference to revise the 1954 convention for the prevention of pollution of the sea by oil be held in the spring of 1962 under the auspices of the intergovernmental maritime consultative organization. This conference would permit Canada to suggest any changes to the convention which we deem to be necessary.

The intergovernmental maritime consultative organization is being kept fully informed of the degree of oil pollution in Canadian waters. I should like to mention that included with the official reports we have transmitted to the organization are reports prepared by the Canadian wildlife service and the Audubon society of Canada.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I want to comment briefly on the statement made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The members of this group were pleased to hear of the further measures being taken by this government to prevent the pollution of our coastal waters, and we support them wholeheartedly. We hope that the government will also use its