

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for Kootenay West for giving me notice of his intention to ask this question.

This matter concerns the proposed construction of a ferry for the British Columbia government, and an application for the government's recently introduced shipbuilding subsidy which is providing so many jobs for Canadians in shipyards all across Canada.

Whether or not Canadian engines will be used in this proposed ship, let me say in answer to the hon. member's question that the purpose of the government's shipbuilding subsidy is to assist Canadian shipyards and Canadian workmen, a purpose with which I feel sure all hon. members agree.

TRANSPORTATION**ROYAL COMMISSION—INQUIRY AS TO
TABLING OF REPORT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister and ask him when the oft promised and long delayed report of the royal commission on transportation will be tabled in the house?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say we received the report a few days ago. The reason the hon. gentleman was not notified is that the house was not sitting, and out of deference to it we decided to wait until it met so that the hon. gentleman would have no cause to complain that the government was acting in a way detrimental to parliament.

Mr. Chevrier: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the Prime Minister forgotten that he indicated to the house on several occasions that the report would be tabled?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it will be tabled, and if the hon. gentleman would like to have it tabled early next week it will be done. I shall do my best to have it here at the earliest possible date.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Can he inform the house when the government anticipates receiving the second and third reports of the royal commission on transportation?

Mr. Diefenbaker: As the hon. gentleman must recollect, Mr. Speaker, because it is just a matter of half an hour ago, that question

[*Mr. Herridge.*]

was asked by the hon. member for Laurier regarding when the second report would be received. It has been received and it will be tabled early next week.

AGRICULTURE**BUTTER—DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John R. Maiheson (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture.

Will the Prime Minister advise the house whether a request has been received from farm representatives for a consumer butter subsidy of 14 cents a pound in order to dispose of the large stocks of butter?

If so, would the Prime Minister indicate whether any action is intended by the government to meet the problem of this record butter surplus?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I read in the press that the dairy council had made a recommendation along that line. Unfortunately the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hamilton) is absent through illness. However, as soon as he returns, which I expect will be shortly, this matter will be answered.

Mr. Hellyer: A supplementary question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Would the Prime Minister say whether this is the only surplus the government has with which to butter up the electors?

LABOUR CONDITIONS**NEWFOUNDLAND—INQUIRY AS TO
LAY-OFFS OF MINERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Tucker (Trinity-Conception): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, his first question.

In view of the recent statements made by officials of the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation that a scheduled shut-down at the Wabana iron ore operations at Bell Island, Newfoundland, affecting some 500 miners is soon to take place, would the minister advise the house whether the government contemplates any action to avert this lay-off?

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, because the hon. gentleman did not give me notice of his intention to ask this question, I think he will understand if I say that I shall take it as notice.