

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

bridge which is badly needed was he reflecting the policy of the present government?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** I do not know what General Kennedy has said with respect to the bridge—

**Some hon. Members:** No bridge.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:**—therefore I am unable to answer the question in any way.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Caron:** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the one I asked the Prime Minister earlier. The Prime Minister said a while ago that he had not received a report of Major General Kennedy's speech. Would he look at that report and answer at a later date?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to do that.

**POWER****COLUMBIA RIVER—CANADA-UNITED STATES TALKS ON DOWNSTREAM BENEFITS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As the format of my question is identical with that used by the present Minister of Justice when he was a member of the opposition, I trust it will be in order. My question arises out of a government press release in this morning's papers stating that satisfactory progress has been made at Canada-United States talks on downstream benefits in sharing the power potential of the Columbia river.

Would the minister inform the house if this press release is correct; who is responsible for the same, and whether he has any further information he can give to the house at this time on this important matter.

**Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his intention to ask this question. With respect to the propriety of asking this question, I have some doubt as to whether I am obliged under the rules of the house to answer a question as to the validity or correctness of a newspaper report. Having registered that doubt, however—

**Mr. Speaker:** If the minister raises the point of order, the first part of the question is objectionable and contrary to the rule, but the question goes beyond that and I allowed it to pass on that account.

**Mr. Herridge:** This was the habit of the Minister of Justice in former days.

**Mr. Fulton:** It never was. However, the hon. gentleman is accustomed to taking liberties, so perhaps he should be allowed to take this one.

**Mr. Smith (Hastings-Frontenac):** Mr. Speaker, with respect to the second part of the question, if that report be true, if the press release came from the international joint commission, I have no further comment.

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION****MONTREAL—INQUIRY AS TO PRESENT STRIKE POSITION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister who answers for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In view of the rejection this morning by the unions of what the C.B.C. described as its ultimate offer, can the minister bring us up to date on the present position of this particular labour situation?

**Hon. J. M. Macdonnell (Acting Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman is apparently aware, negotiations have been taking place during the past few days in Ottawa between representatives of the unions and the C.B.C. The representatives of the unions left Ottawa early this morning for Montreal to review their position with the union membership in the light of these discussions.

According to last reports the union membership indicated that they would not accept the proposals made by the C.B.C. and it is reported that they plan another meeting within a couple of days.

**INQUIRY AS TO WIRE-TAPPING OF UNION HOTEL ROOMS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question on the same topic to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister indicate if he is going to report on requests made that the C.N.R. check the possibility that rooms in the Chateau Laurier used by the unions negotiating with the C.B.C. had been wire-tapped?

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his intention to ask this question. Immediately upon receiving notice I contacted Mr. Mann, the manager of the Chateau Laurier hotel, and he tells me that neither he nor any of the managerial staff has any knowledge of such a procedure having taken place, nor do they think it would be possible.