

Inquiries of the Ministry

he has had an opportunity of considering the question which I asked him yesterday.

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the hon. member for Laurier stated that meat inspectors in the city of Montreal had not received pay for their overtime work for the last three months. He asked if I would inquire into the situation and advise him why this condition exists. The hon. member also stated that it was his understanding that the overtime was paid by the packing houses in which the meat inspectors worked.

In fact the overtime is not actually paid by the packing plants. If a plant engages in overtime operations a charge is made against the plant to cover the approximate cost of the overtime worked by the meat inspectors, but the payments from the plants are deposited to consolidated revenue. The actual overtime payments to the inspectors are made from the regular departmental vote in accordance with civil service regulations.

Those regulations provide for overtime worked by a civil servant to be liquidated as compensatory leave at any time up to the end of the following month if staffing permits, or failing that, for the payment of overtime. For this reason payment for overtime worked in any one month cannot be made until after the end of the following month.

Cheques covering overtime payments to health of animals staff in the Montreal area for April have been sent out, and it is anticipated that payment for overtime worked during May will be made within a week.

Mr. Chevrier: I thank the minister for his reply.

SHIPPINGMONTREAL HARBOUR—SINKING OF S.S.
"COASTAL CASCADES"

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. E. Campeau (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport and ask whether he has any comment to make as to the cause of the sinking of the S.S. *Coastal Cascades* of Transit Tankers and Terminals Limited in berth 110 in Montreal harbour, and as to the measures which are to be taken in this connection.

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The port manager at Montreal harbour has advised me that in the early morning of July 25, the S.S. *Coastal Cascades*, owned by Transit Tankers and Terminals Limited, sank in berth 110, Montreal harbour and the vessel is resting on the bottom on its stern. The reason for the sinking is unknown. There is no danger to

navigation. The S.S. *Coastal Cascades* is 230 feet long with a net registered tonnage of 651 and gross tonnage of 1,239. Investigations are being conducted as to the reason for sinking.

COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCEAUSTRALIA—CANADIAN REPRESENTATION AT
MEETING ON NAVAL CO-OPERATION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence whether Canada was represented at the three-day commonwealth conference recently held in Australia to discuss naval co-operation and, if not, why not?

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): I shall take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCEREQUEST FOR BREAKDOWN OF FIGURE QUOTED
BY MINISTER OF FINANCE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Finance whether he could give the house a breakdown of the \$2 billion which the Minister of Finance said the provinces were asking out of the federal treasury.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member is perhaps a little optimistic in expecting to be able to get an answer to that question on orders of the day.

Mr. Pickersgill: I suggest it is a very urgent question.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSEINQUIRY AS TO PROVISION OF FURTHER
INTERIM SUPPLY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): May I direct a question to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Finance. Before the Minister of Finance gets negotiated out of all the money he has in the treasury, and in view of the fact that the interim supply bill passed a few months ago will no longer have validity after the end of this month, is it the intention of the government to have another interim supply bill introduced to carry on the public business after the end of July.