

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Starr:** I would again ask the Prime Minister whether he would consider referring this report to the economic council for their consideration and views.

**Mr. Pearson:** I do not think that course would serve any useful purpose at this stage, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Winkler:** A further supplementary question to the minister. I should like to ask her how far she anticipates proceeding with the bill as it is presently before us before prorogation.

**Miss LaMarsh:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we are of course in the hands of the house now. Pre-supposing—as I hope will be the fact—that approval in principle is given by this house, we will then be in the hands of the committee and it will be up to them how quickly they deal with it. We will give them all the information they need, as we have indeed given it in this bill. There was more supplementary information given both to this house and to the public about this plan than about any other piece of legislation in history. It is only unfortunate that some of my hon. friends opposite do not read it.

**Hon. George C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance which the minister has attached to this bill, is it not all the more important that we be given a copy of the economic report? And is there any reason in the world why we, as the House of Commons, should not receive that economic report before this matter is referred to the committee?

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**

**MANITOBA—SUGGESTED UPWARD REVISION OF MAIL CONTRACTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Nicholas Mandziuk (Marquette):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Postmaster General. It is prompted by the fact that an additional gasoline tax has been imposed in the province of Manitoba, thus imposing great hardship on mail contractors using trucks. Has the minister given instructions for an upward revision of these mail contracts to take care of the gasoline tax increase in the province of Manitoba?

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I hardly think that the effect of the taxes of the different provinces on postal contracts is a question for the orders of the day.

**Mr. Mandziuk:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I submit that the Postmaster General is quite prepared to answer and could have answered the question. If I put it on the order paper it will bog down.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. May I suggest that the hon. member do put it on the order paper.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO RIVER DREDGING**

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

**Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. Could he tell me if his department intends to proceed this year with the deepening of both the Mille Iles and Back rivers?

**Hon. J. P. Deschatelets (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker—

[*Text*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Surely there is no great urgency that would require a reply at this time on orders of the day. Would the hon. member put his question on the order paper.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pigeon:** But the fact is, Mr. Speaker, that I had given notice of my question to the minister and he is willing to reply.

[*Text*]

**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

**REQUEST FOR EQUALIZATION OF WELFARE PAYMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. In view of the fact that there is a great disparity between the welfare payments made by the various provinces and the welfare payments made by the Indian affairs branch, will the minister undertake to guarantee that the Indian affairs branch welfare payments will be raised to a level equal to those paid by the provinces, in order that by means of higher welfare payments the provincial governments will not entice native Indians to come under provincial plans when they may not desire to do so?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This is surely a very good question for the order paper.