

ing the toll problem as regards the Victoria and Jacques Cartier bridges?

Finally, is it true that the provincial government has secured from the dominion authorities or the Minister of Transport permission to use one of the two railroad tracks on the Quebec bridge for the widening of the vehicular traffic lane?

Hon. LIONEL CHEVRIER (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have listened carefully to the remarks of the hon. member regarding toll charges on Victoria and Jacques Cartier bridges. He asked three questions. I will reply to his last one first. He wanted to know whether it was true that the dominion government had, directly or through the C.N.R., entered into negotiations with the Quebec government with a view to building a driveway on the Quebec bridge. The answer is yes. I must say to the hon. member that although the agreement has not yet been signed between the dominion and provincial governments, negotiations are now concluded and it has been agreed that a paved highway will be built on the Quebec bridge. As the details of this matter are rather complicated, I shall not deal with them tonight. However, it is true that negotiations have been brought to a conclusion. The province of Quebec undertakes to vote the money required to open up this new lane to vehicular traffic.

In his first question, the hon. member asked whether the Quebec government or some other provincial agency had made representations to the dominion government with reference to the elimination of toll charges on Victoria and Jacques Cartier bridges. In answer, I must say that, to my knowledge, no such representations have been made. Further, had any been put forth, I would have been aware of them. I must say that certainly no representations similar to those made by the provincial authorities in connection with the new highway on the Quebec bridge have been made with regard to the Victoria and Jacques Cartier bridges.

May I ask the hon. member to repeat his second question?

Mr. COTE (St. Johns-Iberville-Napierville): Is the Minister of Transport still willing to meet the representatives of the province of Quebec in order to consider their arguments and to see whether toll charges can be eliminated on these bridges?

Mr. CHEVRIER: It goes without saying, Mr. Speaker, that I am entirely agreeable to hearing the representations of the province of Quebec or of any one of its agencies and, if need be, even those of the minister of public works with reference to the removal of toll charges on Victoria and Jacques Cartier bridges.

(Text):

Mr. PAUL E. COTE (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I was not in the house when the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) made the first part of his observations respecting the particular subject he mentioned tonight. I suggest that it would have been more appropriate for him to have taken advantage of one or other of the two opportunities the house will have to discuss labour problems. I refer to the examination by committee of the whole of Bill 195, to provide for the investigation, conciliation and settlement of industrial disputes. We expect that will be submitted to this chamber very shortly. In the second place, the estimates for the Department of Labour are expected to be introduced soon.

I have not any intimate knowledge of the problem mentioned by the hon. member which would allow me to follow satisfactorily the remarks he has made tonight. I would point out, however, that on several occasions recently the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) has dealt with this matter. He has expressed his views in answer to questions put by the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) and others, and I am sure that at the proper time he will make, on this particular matter, any further statement that he deems appropriate.

Mr. MacINNIS: May I, in reply to the parliamentary assistant, say that the situation is critical, and I do not think we can wait for the estimates, or for some other time. People are being shot at; people are going to jail; all kinds of things are happening. I do not think we can wait at a time like this.

I asked the Minister of Labour a question this morning. Had he made any attempt to give me a reasonable answer I would not have had to raise the matter at this time.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Golding in the chair.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

316. Salaries of staff and other pay-list items, \$93,972.

Item stands.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We were considering item 245 of the Department of National Health and Welfare.