

Inquiries of the Ministry

tional practice is for the province to approach the federal government for drought relief or other emergency legislation.

If any interested organization makes an application for relief, however, I would certainly be most pleased to receive it and to approach the provincial minister concerned, if that would be beneficial.

TRANSPORT

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CAUSEWAY—
APPLICATION OF STRETCH-OUT
POLICY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Public Works. In view of the statement in the Speech from the Throne to the effect that the government intends stretching out its expenditures on public construction projects in areas of heavy pressure on the construction industry, can the minister assure this house that this policy will not apply to the construction of the Prince Edward Island causeway and that that project will not be stretched out for that or any other reason?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I do not know the extent to which I should try to elaborate on the Speech from the Throne during the question period. I think it speaks for itself. In any event, I had some difficulty hearing part of the hon. member's question, and I should like to take it as notice and give him a better answer on Monday.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

REPORT ON HONG KONG PRISONERS OF WAR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. W. Groos (Victoria, (B.C.)): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Has the minister as yet received a report from Dr. Richardson covering his inquiry into the present condition of former Hong Kong prisoners of war and, if so, can he tell us when he will be able to table it in the house?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, some days ago I received an interim report and yesterday I received Dr. Richardson's final report. There are only two or three copies on hand. The report is now in the process of being printed and translated, and I am told that I should be in a position to table it in the house in approximately ten days' time.

[Mr. Greene.]

GRAIN

WHEAT—PRICES PAID FOR SHIPMENTS
TO INDIA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Grant Deachman (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Can the minister inform the house whether the federal government has recently purchased wheat for India from the private trade at a premium over wheat board prices?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is probably referring to an article that appeared in the *Globe and Mail* on January 19 in which such a suggestion was made. I should like to make it quite clear that the government has purchased wheat for India for shipment from both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. This wheat was purchased from the private grain trade at prevailing prices. There was no premium involved. The government in effect paid prices comparable to those which any other buyer in the world would have had to pay for Canadian wheat at the time the purchase was made.

[Later:]

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, with reference to the reply given a few moments ago by the Minister of Finance, would he advise the house what price was paid to the grain trade for No. 2 Northern wheat and also for No. 3 Northern?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, this is the sort of question that might better be put on the order paper; but in view of the fact that I did make reference to this matter today, I can give the right hon. gentleman some examples. There were several cargoes. With respect to shipment from West St. John, the price of grade No. 2 was \$2.13 $\frac{3}{4}$ per bushel. The estimated replacement price would be exactly the same. From the same port, for No. 3 northern the price was \$2.05 $\frac{1}{2}$ and the estimated replacement price was \$2.04 $\frac{3}{4}$. From Pacific ports, No. 2 northern, the price was approximately \$2 and a very small fraction of a cent while the replacement price was the same. Those are examples.

Mr. Diefenbaker: What about No. 3 northern in Vancouver?

Mr. Sharp: There were no transactions in No. 3 northern from Vancouver.