

*(Translation)***BRIDGES****CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE, MONTREAL—REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF TOLLS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

In view of the fact that Jacques Cartier bridge is under repair at present, as well as the approaches to Victoria bridge, and that heavy traffic is prohibited in the Lafontaine tunnel and considering that a telegram has been sent to the minister and a few members of this house by the Quebec or Eastern Canada Trucking Association, would it be possible for the government, as requested by that association, to abolish tolls on Champlain bridge, at least temporarily or until the situation is corrected next spring?

Mr. Speaker: I doubt very much that this type of question should be accepted in the circumstances. If the minister wishes to reply, I shall allow him to do so through courtesy for the member for Mégantic.

[English]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I very much regret, and I am sure everyone who has used the bridge regrets it even more, that there is serious congestion on the Jacques Cartier bridge because of the paving that is being done at the present time. Every effort is being made to see that the paving is done only on one lane at a time. The work is progressing from both ends, and I am very hopeful that this situation will be of a temporary nature. In the meantime the suggestion will be taken into consideration.

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister look into the situation and make some attempt to speed up the work being done and avoid construction on all bridges at the same time? This would alleviate some of this congestion.

POWER**COLUMBIA RIVER—REQUEST FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE IN DAM CONSTRUCTION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I intended to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Perhaps in his absence his parlia-

Inquiries of the Ministry

mentary secretary could deal with it or, under the circumstances, perhaps the right hon. Prime Minister will answer it.

Yesterday the Minister of Finance, in correcting an answer given previously by the Prime Minister as to whether there had been a request from the premier of British Columbia for assistance in the financing of Columbia river dams told us that there was a letter from Premier Bennett to him and that he had replied. Will the government consider tabling copies of that correspondence immediately?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as I stated, no such request has been received by me. As the Minister of Finance said, the matter was raised at a recent conference and is being considered by the Department of Finance preparatory to its submission to the cabinet for consideration. Until that time I do not wish to add to what already has been said.

Mr. Fulton: Perhaps the Prime Minister misunderstood me, Mr. Speaker. I was not asking him to further disclose the government's intentions, but merely, in view of the importance of this matter, to table the correspondence so the house might be better informed.

Mr. Pearson: I have no objection to doing so, but I should like to consult with the minister to see in exactly what form the request was made by the premier. Having done so I will make a report to the house.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance referred to a letter from the premier of British Columbia which he said had been acknowledged on September 23, so there appears to have been correspondence.

Mr. Pearson: I should like to ascertain whether the correspondence was labelled personal, private or confidential and whether there were items referred to other than the particular matter in question.

NATIONAL PARKS**CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS—WINTER WORKS PROGRAM**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I intended to pose a question to the minister in charge of Canada's