trifurcation project for the Fraser River, which has been long awaited, has now been abandoned by the Department. Could the Minister say whether this is so?

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Public Works): No, Mr. Speaker, the report is not correct. The Department of Public Works has not abandoned the trifurcation program for the Fraser River. My hon. friend perhaps knows that although there has been general acceptance by the shipping firms of the principle of the program, there has been some objection taken to some of the details of the plan. These details and other difficulties are now being studied by the Department.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

SHAUGHNESSY HOSPITAL, VANCOUVER— SALARIES OF STAFF

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, notice of which I sent him yesterday. Would the Minister advise the House when he expects to be able to announce the decision of his Department regarding the request for adjustments in the wage rates of orderlies at Shaughnessy Hospital, Vancouver?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I want to express my thanks to the hon. Member for giving me notice of this question. As I believe was stated earlier, we are awaiting the results of a survey of salaries now being conducted by the Civil Service Commission, following which it is hoped that this matter will be satisfactorily resolved.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, could I ask the Minister when we may expect some action on the matter of the increases in salary for the Shaughnessy Hospital employees? This matter has been before the House for a long time. Can the Minister set any approximate date as to when action is anticipated?

Mr. Teillet: This is part of the answer I gave a moment ago. The matter is in the hands of the Civil Service Commission and I cannot give a definite answer. Perhaps I might inquire and report later, but I do not have a date now.

Inquiries of the Ministry

HONG KONG VETERANS—INQUIRY AS TO REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may reply to a question asked yesterday by the hon. Member for York-Sunbury with reference to the Hong Kong prisoners of war and when we could report in connection with them. I am informed by the Canadian Pension Commission that reports so far have identified a number of problems which require further study. Some of this is being done by the Department of National Defence medical staff. I am also informed that it may be some months before this is completed. However, as a result of the survey an extension of treatment rights for dental diseases is now being implemented.

AGRICULTURE

ASSISTANCE IN CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY CENTRES BY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. I would like to ask him if it is the intention of the Government to proceed with legislation this session to assist rural groups to build year round community centres, in conjunction with their agricultural societies.

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): This is still under consideration, Mr. Speaker, and I hope we will be able to deal with it soon.

TRANSPORT

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND—SHORTAGE OF REFRIGERATOR CARS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport as a follow-up to a question asked last Monday by my colleague from Queens. Is the Minister now in a position to tell the House whether the C.N.R. has reported to him on its success or otherwise in solving the problem connected with the shortage of suitable refrigerator cars in the Maritimes?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I had hoped yesterday to give an answer to the other hon. Member for Queens, but the question period went on so long and I had a very important appointment and was not able to do so.