

'La Patrie' and I instructed Mr. Haines to go in the ordinary manner and take a report of what the Minister of Marine said. It was a very interesting occasion indeed. A minister of the Crown was making his first speech as a minister. The speech was reported in all the newspapers, in the English papers as well as the French. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries said then, and he stated it over and over again, not once but ten times at least during this election campaign, that the dredging part of the Department of Public Works would be transferred to the Department of Marine and Fisheries. As to that there cannot be any dispute whatever. The point has been raised here now and it is just as well to have it out. We are discussing the items of dredging for the Department of Public Works, and if this money is to be spent by the Department of Marine and Fisheries then the minister of that department should be the man to answer the questions.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. It is not fair to ask the House to vote money for the Public Works Department if that money is to be spent in the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Whether the hon. minister (Hon. Mr. Préfontaine) has said what he was not authorized to say, or whether he has said what he was authorized to say; that is his own business, but there is no doubt that he said it. He stated so in his own election and also in the election campaign in Terrebonne and Two Mountains.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). And he has never been asked for his resignation.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. It has never been disputed that he made the statement. If the policy he then announced is not going to be carried out, well and good, and I hope it will not be carried out; but if it is to be carried out, then the House should be informed of it so that we should not be asked to vote money for one department and for one minister that would be spent by another department and by another minister. There might be questions asked from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Hon. Mr. Préfontaine) that would not be asked from my hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Sutherland). I for one would ask from the hon. gentleman who is Minister of Marine and Fisheries questions that I am not inclined to ask from my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works (Hon. Mr. Sutherland).

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. My hon. friend who leads the House (Hon. Mr. Fielding) should recognize that we should not proceed any further until we know. The Prime Minister stated a few days ago that he would be prepared to make an announcement within a short time, and it is only good parliamen-

Hon. Mr. TARTE.

tary practice not to proceed any further unless the present leader of the House is prepared to tell us that no change will be made. If the Department of Marine and Fisheries is going to spend the money which we are voting to the Department of Public Works, we have the right to know it. If the Minister of Marine and Fisheries had not made this statement I would not speak as I do but he has made the statement, and he is accountable for it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. I have been asked to account for what I have said on former occasions.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. It is my right and the right of parliament to know whether the statement made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has been authorized or not. If it has been authorized we have no right to vote the Department of Public Works, money that the Department of Marine and Fisheries will spend.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. He should be treated as—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear. Say it.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. How will I say it? He should be treated as constitutionally as I have been treated.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. INGRAM. Since I spoke last I have to announce another very important bulletin. I did not question the statement made by the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Marci) until I read the Montreal 'Herald,' and I cannot account for the friendliness of the Montreal 'Herald' to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries these days, unless it is that the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Mr. Fisher) is in Japan, and his newspaper is taking liberties that it would not take if he were here. The Montreal 'Herald' in its Ottawa news announces that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has returned to Ottawa, and for the information of the House I will read what he says. I am sorry I am not able to read the same article in French, so that the hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Bureau) could see again the word 'ungh.' With us that is a common word in the Indian language; but I was not aware that it was so commonly used in French. Here is the correspondence in the 'Herald.'

Ottawa, May 7.—Hon. Raymond Préfontaine returned from Montreal last night where he was looking into the situation with respect to the longshoremen's strike.

Mr. Préfontaine says he saw both the shipping interests and the longshoremen, and from what he has heard of both sides he does not see any possible solution to the strike, other