

Inquiries of the Ministry

2. What was the total cost to date of (a) the construction of the Amos-Mattagami highway (b) extras paid and authorized for the said highway?

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question about the intentions of the government with regard to parliamentary business before the Easter adjournment. More specifically, I should like to ask him what business there is likely to be in addition to the supplementary estimates and the legislation on the order paper. I should also like to ask whether there will be a budget before the Easter adjournment, with provision for normal discussion and action.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we intend to proceed with the matters now on the order paper. The fourth set of supplementary estimates will require to be dealt with this week. In addition, of course, there is on the order paper a motion to set up a commission on redistribution, a matter that has been of continuing interest for years. I feel sure the house will want to deal with that at the earliest possible date. Then there are some other measures, of which the house will be given notice in due course, over and above those that are already on the order paper.

I do not think I can go further at this time. I only hope that there will be a spirit of co-operation on the part of the opposition and that we will not experience again the delays that took place on the earlier supplementary estimates.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, what the Prime Minister has called delays were due to the inability of the government to give us information as to the business of the house. May I ask the Prime Minister if he will deal with my question regarding the possibility of a budget before the Easter adjournment.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, that will receive the attention of the house in due course.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**SONS OF FREEDOM—MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER AND KOOTENAY REPRESENTATIVES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Justice. In view of press reports to the effect that the Minister of Justice has [Mr. Martel.]

assured Mr. Peter Dewdney of Trail, a solicitor for the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company and Progressive Conservative candidate in Kootenay West, that he will visit the Kootenays as soon as possible to speak with the authorities on the Sons of Freedom problem, and in view of the interest of all the people in Kootenay West in this matter, would the minister be willing to meet representatives of all the municipalities, all the labour organizations, all the chambers of commerce and all the farmers' and women's institutes when he visits the district?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, naturally I am flattered by the interest and attention that the hon. gentleman shows in my prospective movements. I can assure him that while I appreciate his concern over the situation, it has not been necessary to have his prodding in order to be in touch with many of those whom he has mentioned. What I have done is to assure my friends in that area, of whom I also have many, that at the first possible opportunity I will arrange to have a discussion with them either in the Kootenays or at some other convenient place, depending upon the exigencies of my schedule.

Mr. Herridge: I should like to ask a supplementary question. Are the heads and representatives of all the organizations I have mentioned included in the list of the minister's friends with whom he will speak? That is what I am concerned about.

Mr. Fulton: As I say, I am flattered by this attention to my intended movements. I think the hon. member will have gathered that as yet there is no schedule; therefore his question is a little premature.

ONTARIO—REPORTED LETTER RESPECTING REMUNERATION OF JUDGES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice a question arising out of a statement made by Judge Cooper, retiring president of the county and district judges association of Ontario. The question is, has the minister made any reply to the letter the judge says he sent to the minister on February 8, in which he alleged that Ontario judges were being starved into contravening the Judges Act?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that if I received a letter from a judge on February 8 I would have replied to it by now.

Mr. Fisher: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the minister whether