

Motions for Papers

TRANSMISSION ASSEMBLIES AND PARTS—IMPORTS

Question No. 51—Mr. Broome:

1. What is the value of automatic transmission assemblies and parts imported from the United States by the automobile industry, in each of the years 1955-56-57?
2. What is duty rate on (a) complete transmission used in assembly of motor cars; (b) on parts?

ROADS, BRIDGES, ETC.—ASSISTANCE TO PROVINCES

Question No. 57—Mr. Argue:

1. What has been the total federal government expenditure for the fiscal years 1956-57 and 1957-58, in each province on (a) roads; (b) bridges; (c) grade separations?
2. Of the total amount for each fiscal year, how much was paid to each provincial government, and how much directly by the federal government for work under its jurisdiction?

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

Question No. 69—Mr. McIlraith:

What were the names of advertising firms employed by each department of the government, (a) on April 1, 1957; (b) on April 1, 1958?

FEDERAL STEPS TO CURTAIL TRAFFIC DEATHS

Question No. 71—Mr. Houck:

1. How many persons have died in Canada during the year 1957, as a result of automobile and highway traffic accidents?
2. Has the federal government collected any information as to plans or programs designed to curtail loss of life from automobile or highway traffic accidents?
3. Has the federal government taken any steps to distribute such information or has it taken any such steps to assist in curtailing loss of life?

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

BEAUCE FLOOD, QUEBEC

Motion No. 10—Mr. Racine:

For a copy of all correspondence exchanged between the town of Beauceville, and any person or persons, and the federal government, concerning the flooding of the Chaudiere river, last December.

Motion agreed to.

GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE—STUDY OF FACILITIES REQUIRED

Motion No. 12—Mr. Chevrier:

For a copy of the study or survey made by the Department of Public Works, or any official thereof, of facilities required at ports and harbours along the great lakes-St. Lawrence route, arising out of the construction of the St. Lawrence seaway and the opening of this route to 27-foot navigation in 1959, and more particularly of improvements to harbour and river works at such ports.

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, this motion calls for the production of reports which are made by officers of my department to more senior officers in that department, and as such I believe they are privileged and should not be produced.

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Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, the reason for this motion is because of a discussion which took place during the debate on the estimates of the Department of Public Works. I would like to quote from page 930 of *Hansard* for June 6, 1958, as follows:

I simply wanted to bring to his attention—

That is to the attention of the minister.

—the fact that he should deal with all ports in the same manner, and in order to do that it seems to me that the best way is to have a survey or study made.

A little further on the minister intervened as follows:

It has already been done for practically all the ports.

To which I replied:

I am glad it has. If it has, I hope the results will be available to those of us on this side of the house—

It seems to me that it would be useful if these surveys of ports which are made could be given to the house so we would have some information and some knowledge of what improvements are contemplated at such ports.

Mr. Green: Mr. Speaker, these investigations are made by the officials of the department in the course of their duties, and we cannot disclose confidential reports of this kind. If this were to be done in the course of administration we would get into an impossible position. I have in my hand Bourinot's fourth edition, page 251, which reads as follows:

The practice of asking for reports from officers, addressed to particular departments of the executive government, is considered to be open to serious objection. As to "confidential documents" passing between officers of a department, Mr. Speaker Peel observes: "They are not necessarily laid on the table of the house, especially if the minister declares that they are of a confidential character."

The reports for which the hon. member for Laurier is asking are of a confidential character, and I suggest they should not be produced.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, if I may have a further word on this subject, the hon. gentleman did not say during the course of the discussion that the reports were confidential. He does state that now, but all I am saying at this juncture is that the position he takes is entirely different from that which he took when he sat on this side of the house and demanded the production of similar documents.

Mr. Green: On that point, Mr. Speaker, I do not think the hon. member can produce any statements in *Hansard* to back up what he has just said.

Mr. Chevrier: *Hansard* is replete with them.