

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

I have been in touch with the management of the railway, who advise that negotiations are at present actively under way, but that final arrangements have not yet been concluded.

[Later:]

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, first I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. I wonder if he could advise me when the negotiations to which he referred between the Canadian National Railways and this other private concern might be expected to be completed?

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, the management of the Canadian National Railways have advised me that they will be completed just as soon as possible.

**CANALS****CHIGNECTO—STATEMENT ON PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN SURVEY**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Westmorland (Mr. Murphy) asked who are carrying on studies regarding transportation problems in the Atlantic region, and what is the competence of the people who are carrying out this work.

**Mr. Murphy (Westmorland):** That was not the question.

**Mr. Hees:** As I understand it, Mr. Speaker, that was the question, and my answer is that this work is being carried out under the direction of the bureau of transportation economics within my department. The staff engaged in this work are the regular employees of that bureau, employed by the civil service commission in accordance with the normal procedures, and selected because of their competence in dealing with economic and other aspects of transportation matters.

I would like to assure the hon. member that I have the greatest confidence in the competence of those who are carrying out these studies, and if he has any doubt as to their competence I suggest he speak to the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier) or the hon. member for St. Antoine-Westmount (Mr. Marler) under whose direction these men were appointed to carry out this type of work for my department.

**Hon. George C. Marler (St. Antoine-Westmount):** I would like to draw the minister's attention to the fact that the question he was asked related to the Chignecto canal and not to transportation problems in general.

**Mr. Hees:** I am always glad to put the hon. member straight on these matters—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no question before the house.

[Later:]

**Mr. Henry Murphy (Westmorland):** I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport arising out of the answer he has made. Does the government now consider the Chignecto canal project as part of the St. Lawrence seaway, as did the Prime Minister in Saint John, New Brunswick, on May 3 of this year?

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that the Prime Minister said any such thing.

**Mr. Sinclair:** It is hard to keep up with all the promises he made during the election campaign. I do not blame you for not knowing them all.

**WELLAND, ONTARIO—INQUIRY AS TO FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO RELIEVE TRAFFIC CONGESTION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. I tried to reach him this morning but was unsuccessful, so I could not give him any notice. Has the minister of highways of Ontario approached him regarding federal financial assistance for the relief of traffic bottlenecks across the Welland ship canal in the Niagara district?

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** The answer, Mr. Speaker, is no.

**CRIMINAL LAW****REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION RESPECTING SALE OF OBSCENE LITERATURE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. L. Houck (Niagara Falls):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice, and I ask this because of the very fine remarks the minister made about the sale of obscene literature when he was in opposition. I am wondering if in his present ministry, when it is within his power to bring in legislation in this parliament, he is going to do so prohibiting the sale of obscene literature.

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. gentleman for his kind remarks and also for having indicated to me yesterday that he was going to raise this matter. In reply I should like to inform him that this question was