

*Inquiries of the Ministry***HARBOURS****COME-BY-CHANCE, NFLD.—BENEFITS TO PROVINCE UNDER FEDERAL AGREEMENT TO BUILD WHARF**

**Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West):** My question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. When I directed this question to the Minister of Transport on June 9 he suggested that I direct it to the Minister of Public Works when he was next in the House. My question concerned a statement by an official of the Department of Transport to the effect that the federal government agreement to build a \$16 million wharf to serve the planned refinery at Come-By-Chance, Newfoundland, is contingent on certain additional benefits guaranteeing more revenue for the province of Newfoundland. What are the additional benefits?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, the government of Canada had undertaken an offer to build the wharf at Come-By-Chance. It was subject to a clarification in the agreement between the federal government and the province with respect to their ability to repay the investment. The cost of the wharf is recoverable. At the present time there are continuing discussions between officials of the government of Canada, the provincial government and the company with a view to seeing whether we can get this matter straightened out and the work undertaken.

**Mr. Carter:** Can the minister indicate if the signing of the agreement will be contingent on Newfoundland getting additional benefits other than those already agreed to by the company and the province?

**Mr. Laing:** What we are interested in, Mr. Speaker, is a financial provision so that the considerable amount of money involved, probably \$16 million, will be returned to the government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We have just about run out of time. Perhaps the House will allow the hon. member for Broadview to ask a question. He has been trying to do so for a few days.

**PENITENTIARIES****REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO CONDITIONS**

**Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview):** My question is directed to the Solicitor General. Last [Mr. Alkenbrack.]

Friday I asked the Solicitor General to have a public inquiry or set up a committee to investigate the conditions in penitentiaries across the country, especially the high suicide rate at the present time in some of our penitentiaries. The minister said he would consider this and make a decision. Has the Solicitor General made a decision with regard to this very important problem?

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, it is not our present intention to set up any such commission.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the President of the Privy Council rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. There have been discussions among the representatives of the parties. I think there is general agreement to an order that for the purpose of today's debate the initial spokesmen in each group should be allowed 20 minutes and the remaining speakers allowed 15 minutes. If agreeable, perhaps this could be made an order of the House.

**Mr. Alexander:** There is agreement on this side of the House with respect to the proposal made by the Government House Leader.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is so ordered.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS****BUSINESS OF SUPPLY****ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 58—HOUSING—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT ACTION TO INCREASE CONSTRUCTION, ETC.**

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West)** moved:

This House declares that the government must, in view of the disastrous decline in residential housing construction, announce before the summer recess new measures to stimulate a significant expansion in the number of housing units being built, to reduce the total cost of individual homes for middle and low-income Canadians, and to reduce or eliminate unemployment in the construction trades.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I suppose many members wonder why this motion has been placed before the House and the people of