

*Supply—Privy Council*

makes the total amount available for the acquisition of properties, particularly with reference to the Queensway and the green belt, \$7.5 million in this fiscal year?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That is right.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Then I wanted to clarify one other point about the Bronson avenue bridge. The Prime Minister made reference to the contribution of the federal district commission being 40 per cent of the cost of the bridge and approaches. Was I correct in that understanding?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** It is 40 per cent of the total cost of the bridge.

**Mr. McIlraith:** And the approaches, too? They are rather lengthy and costly approaches.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** As the hon. gentleman says, the commission shall pay to the city 40 per cent of the cost of the Bronson bridge and of the cost of its approaches thereto.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Now, then, is the federal government, through the Department of Transport, making a contribution as well? I understand it is?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Yes.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Then I wanted to address myself to one other problem. The green belt area, as announced by the Prime Minister on June 18 and to which reference was made in the debate on the legislation, is now clearly defined by a plan revised as of June, 1958 and printed. What I want to know from the Prime Minister at the moment is, has that plan been registered and expropriation proceedings commenced covering the green belt area?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** No.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Then that brings me to the elaboration of a point I raised at the legislation stage. I shall try not to repeat the same point, but there is something more I want to say on the subject. I want to point out that with all the publicity given to the green belt and this announcement by the Prime Minister on June 18, 1958, it has become impossible for most persons residing in the green belt area, other than farmers, to use their land. The owners of these lands have been effectively stopped from using them, particularly those persons who are using their lands for subdivision developments. It will be recalled that this whole problem resulted from the unsupervised development of housing in that area.

I was going to ask the Prime Minister, now that a decision has been taken with respect to the filing of a plan, to proceed with the

settlement of claims as quickly as it is possible to do so because the financial hardship suffered from what is in effect, from the point of view of the owners, an expropriation that has taken place without any settlement is quite severe. This is particularly true if the price of land continues to rise and these people are left without compensation for the lands taken from them. It simply means that those who do not have other financial resources cannot relocate and continue their business activities, thereby suffering heavy financial loss that is not contemplated or provided for by the expropriation legislation, and for which compensation cannot be made under the expropriation law. I should like to have some assurance from the Prime Minister that this point will be borne in mind, and that whatever action can be taken to prevent this occurrence will be taken in the immediate future.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I can certainly say to the hon. gentleman, Mr. Chairman, that with reasonable dispatch his views will receive support.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Then there are two particular questions about which I want some information. In his statement the Prime Minister referred to the decrease in rentals in this fiscal year. Would he tell the committee just what caused the decrease in rentals?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The reason is that the accumulated surplus in earlier years has been used up.

**Mr. McIlraith:** What I am getting at is this. Is the annual revenue from rentals decreasing, or is it that the fund which has been accumulated is decreasing?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** It is the latter.

**Mr. McIlraith:** So there is no substantial decrease in the annual rentals. Then the next question has to do with the wording of item 314. If the Prime Minister will look at it, he will see that the last part of the item reads:

—to authorize the payment of an honorarium at the rate of \$10,000 per annum to the chairman of the federal district commission notwithstanding section 8 of the Federal District Commission Act.

Could the Prime Minister tell us today what he has in mind with reference to continuing the chairman of the federal district commission, so long as the act is in force, and what he contemplates as to the office of chairman when the new commission is set up; that is by way of permanency, salary and so on?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I hope, at the earliest possible date we shall be able to proclaim and proceed under the new act. In so far as the chairman of the commission is concerned, no consideration has been given to that matter.