

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Has the minister seen a letter published in *Le Devoir* on May 8, 1961 over the signature of the hon. member for Vaudreuil-Soulanges, concerning the Soulanges canal?

**Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I have not read the letter in question, but I must say I have had several exceedingly constructive talks on that subject with the member for Vaudreuil-Soulanges.

**Mr. Clermont:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister of Transport indicate under what authority the hon. member for Vaudreuil-Soulanges prevented the Soulanges canal from being turned over to the province of Quebec?

**Mr. Balcer:** Mr. Speaker, this government always pays close attention to responsible suggestions made by hon. members with regard to any such projects.

I think the offer we made to the province of Quebec to surrender for one dollar 13 miles of the Soulanges canal for the purpose of using it as a fish hatchery was reasonable and indeed generous; and our decision to temporarily set aside certain parts of the property in case some industrial concerns might be interested in locating there was justified in the circumstances.

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier):** A supplementary question. Has the minister had occasion to prepare an answer to the question I asked him last week, in which I asked which chamber of commerce had asked the minister to set aside a mile of the Soulanges canal for industrial purposes?

**Mr. Balcer:** It is the chamber of commerce of Vaudreuil-Soulanges. I have in my hand a very well written pamphlet which indicates the industrial advantages to be found in this beautiful area close to Cascades, which, as requested by the hon. member for Vaudreuil-Soulanges, we are anxious to offer to Canadian or foreign industries.

(Text):

## P.E.I. CAUSEWAY—REQUEST FOR FINAL REPORT

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate):** May I ask the Minister of Public Works whether he expects to have available for the house before the end of this month the final report on the feasibility and cost of the causeway to Prince Edward Island?

**Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works):** As you know, Mr. Speaker, this is a tremendous project and of necessity requires the most minute investigation.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Walker:** As to whether or not it will be available, I am not in a position at the present time to say. What significance can there be in wanting it by the end of the month?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** If I may, I should like to ask the minister a supplementary question. Does he not realize that the people of Prince Edward Island would like him to get on with this project as was promised?

**Mr. Walker:** For 22 years under the Liberal administration nothing was done.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The usual answer.

**Mr. Peters:** You'll have to wait for the New party for that to happen.

**Mr. Howard:** I decline to comment on that last interjection, although I think it is a quite proper one.

## SPRINGHILL, N.S.—STATEMENT ON MAINTENANCE OF RAILWAY SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate inquired concerning the spur line from Springhill to Springhill Junction. I might say that the hon. member for Cumberland recently came to see me with a delegation from the town of Springhill, and the additional representations put forward were referred to the Canadian National Railways. There have also been discussions with the provincial government, but all I can say at the moment is that the matter is still under very serious consideration.

## TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

## REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF HIGHWAY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** While I am on my feet, I wonder whether I might ask if the Minister of Public Works is in a position to give an answer to my question of yesterday.

**Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works):** In answer to the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, may I say that the hon. member for Comox-Alberni asked a similar question of the former minister of public works. The answer was then and still is that the locale of the trans-Canada highway or its route was fixed by the province of British Columbia