

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

## WORK ON MERCIER BRIDGE, MONTREAL

**Motion No. 54—Mr. Argue:**

For a copy of all correspondence, telegrams, reports by inspectors, agreements, contracts, and other documents exchanged between the St. Lawrence seaway authority, the Department of Transport or any other government department, and any person or persons, since January 1, 1955, relating to any work to be done on the Mercier bridge at Montreal, Quebec.

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** I understand the hon. member is willing to allow the motion to stand until he decides exactly what it is he does want.

**Mr. Argue:** I know exactly what I want, but I have had a request to amend it and I am willing to consider the request.

Motion stands.

## NATIONAL MUSEUM ADMINISTRATION, ETC.

**Motion No. 55—Mr. Argue:**

For a copy of all correspondence, telegrams, reports and other documents exchanged between any cabinet minister or any of his or her deputies, the civil service commission, and any person or persons, since January 1, 1945 to December 31, 1955, relating to the administration, working conditions, scientific collections and specimens, publication of studies and problems facing the national museum of Canada.

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):** I am glad to accept this motion, with the usual reservations.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion, subject to the limitations expressed by the minister?

Motion agreed to.

**A. V. ROE COMPANY**

## INQUIRY AS TO MEETINGS WITH UNION AND COMPANY OFFICIALS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Prime Minister has anything he can report to the house following the meetings with A. V. Roe and union officials?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** This morning, Mr. Speaker, several of my colleagues and myself had a meeting with Mr. Jodoin and also with leaders of the international association of machinists. Yesterday, and again this afternoon, there will be meetings with representatives of the A. V. Roe corporation. The meeting this afternoon is at 5 p.m. I have nothing to report other than that discussions are continuing.

**Mr. Hellyer:** As a supplementary question, may I ask if the Prime Minister has put forward, on behalf of the government, any new proposals to the company?

[Mr. Speaker.]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The earlier answer still stands, that while consideration is being given and discussions are taking place there is nothing I have to report at the present time.

[Later:]

**Mr. Alexander Best (Halton):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Are any steps being taken by the government to explore the possibility of utilizing any number of highly skilled members of the Avro staff in some aspects of the government's various scientific projects under the defence research board?

**Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence):** Yes, Mr. Speaker; this problem is being explored by the defence research board.

**FINANCE**

## AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT—CONTRIBUTION TO UNITED STATES RED CROSS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Percy Vivian (Durham):** I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Would the minister care to comment upon the section of the auditor general's report which mentions a \$50,000 contribution made in late June, 1957, to the United States Red Cross society to help cope with the devastation in the United States caused by hurricane Audrey?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I have grave doubts that this is the proper place to introduce a subject of that age.

**INDUSTRY**

## AIRCRAFT—ALLEGED WARNING INDUSTRY IN JEOPARDY

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** May I ask the Prime Minister if he can confirm or deny a story which appeared in the *Toronto Daily Star*, and which alleges the government was warned 15 months ago that Canada's aircraft industry was in serious jeopardy because of lack of government policy, and that this warning was given to the Prime Minister in a report submitted to him confidentially on December 2, 1957, by the air industries and transport association of Canada?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Now, Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of question the hon. member knows is not proper for the orders of the day. It comprises some statements which it would be improper for me to confirm or deny, and which endeavour to leave the impression that certain things have taken place. I am not going to be placed in the position of confirming or