

Inquiries of the Ministry

We were, at the time, assured by the Quebec government engineers that this section, which is vital for the world fair, will also be completed in time for the fair.

Hon. Leon Balcer (Three Rivers): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question? Could the minister give us the real reason for the resignation of Messrs. Bienvenu, Carsley and Robillard?

Mr. Deschatelets: Mr. Speaker, when Mr. Bienvenu and Mr. Carsley handed in their resignations, which were regretted at the time, they gave their reasons for doing so and it would not be proper for me to add anything to what they said.

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-l'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, speaking of roads of access to the fair, could the minister tell the house if the federal government will contribute about 90 per cent of the construction cost?

Mr. Deschatelets: Mr. Speaker, as regards work on the trans-Canada highway, the federal contribution is provided for in the Trans-Canada Highway Act and it will be the same in this case as in the other provinces.

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that it is urgent and timely, I hope the Prime Minister will inform the house and the public as to which member of the cabinet answers for the world fair.

[Text]

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the reason I answered the previous question with the words "Of course it was inaccurate" was because there was a minister already designated as minister responsible for the world fair. That has been made public and it is the Minister of Public Works.

[Translation]

Mr. Valade: I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Public Works.

Could the minister tell the house whether the new general commissioner has accepted the \$75,000 yearly allowance which his predecessor refused?

Hon. J. P. Deschatelets (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of the question and answer it tomorrow.

[Text]

REPORTED APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER FOR ST. LAWRENCE-ST. GEORGE AS LIAISON OFFICER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask a question relating to the very well thought of hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George. I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works whether there is any substance in the reports that the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George has been appointed to or given the task of providing liaison among the federal government, the government of the city of Montreal and the Quebec government in matters relating to the world fair.

Hon. J. P. Deschatelets (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, this matter is a prerogative of the Prime Minister and I would refer my hon. friend's question to him.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the report is of course without foundation.

TRANSPORT

RAILWAY BRANCH LINES—SUGGESTED
POSTPONEMENT OF ACTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Has the minister anything new to report on the proposed railroad abandonment in the light of heavy grain movements on the prairies?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker. There have been no rail line abandonments on the prairies, and I do not think there is anything new or different about the situation. I hope we can move the prairie wheat to the complete satisfaction of the hon. member.

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): A supplementary question. I should like to ask the minister if he would care to comment on reports that further sales of wheat are being discouraged, or at least inhibited, because the transportation industry is unable to cope with any further movement.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether it is good practice to comment on such statements, but it is perfectly obvious that the statement is untrue.