

Inquiries of the Ministry

assume what the hon. member is referring is a copy of a commentary and revision thereof referred to in an answer I gave in the house on February 8 to question No. 2556. If this is so, there is no objection to the production of that material. The correspondence can be produced as well. The analyses of the commentary are intradepartmental matters and therefore cannot be produced in accordance with the usual practice. Subject to this qualification I am glad to have the motion pass.

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): It is agreeable to me, provided that at some date fairly soon the minister or some representative of his department can give assurance to the people of Prince Edward Island that such report by Mr. McCulloch has not jeopardized the contemplated construction of the crossing.

Mr. Speaker: Subject to the reservation expressed by the minister, is it agreed that the motion shall pass?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I rise on a question of privilege with reference to the standing of motions. I wonder if I might ask the parliamentary secretary, with respect to No. 215, when we may expect this motion to be brought forward. I may say I was given to understand informally that the motion would be allowed to stand for a week, but the information is urgently desired.

Mr. J. B. Stewart (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): I will see if that information can be obtained soon.

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): May I ask the Minister of Industry when I may expect an answer to my question No. 2,618 on the order paper. It has been there for a month, and I am sure this information is available to the minister. Or does he find the answer too embarrassing?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): I regret the delay very much, but the answer has been approved by me and is somewhere in the machine. I had hoped it would have been amongst the answers given today. The next day it is sure to be there.

Mr. Winkler: The machine is all fouled up.

TRANSPORT**WELLAND CANAL—PROTEST RESPECTING IMPOSITION OF TOLLS**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the

Minister of Transport whether representations have been received from Mr. V. W. Scully, chairman of the board, and Mr. Griffith, president of the Steel Company of Canada, relating to the imposition of lockage fees on the Welland canal? The contention of these gentlemen is that this represents a discriminatory step against Ontario steel producers, since the Welland canal will be the only North American waterway to bear such charges. Since the result will be substantially to increase the cost of transporting raw material and will weaken the position of Canadian steel producers on lake Ontario, will the government reconsider this matter, difficult as that may be?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in so far as the factual question is concerned, the answer is that a telegram of the nature indicated by the right hon. gentleman has been received. I can assure him that this whole matter has received long, careful and indeed I might almost add agonizing consideration. It does not seem to me, having regard to the law as it now stands, that the government would be justified in reconsidering it.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister whether that is a final decision, or is it possible that his heart might be softened enough to provide for an agonizing reappraisal?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I do not think any decision in this vale of tears is ever final. As the right hon. gentleman will recall, decisions were sometimes made in connection with the Welland canal without much consideration of any kind, and did not always lead to the results that were expected.

BRITISH COLUMBIA—FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION TO BURRARD INLET CROSSING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I desire to direct a question to the Minister of Transport regarding the press release he has given out today, and the announcement being made in Vancouver by the Minister of Labour regarding a third crossing for Burrard Inlet. In that release it is stated that the federal government is prepared to make a capital contribution to the project which reflects obligations which are essentially national rather than local in character. May I ask the minister whether he can be more specific and inform those interested as