

Inquiries of the Ministry

a copy of the agreement on the South Saskatchewan dam project which was signed July 25?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be very pleased to table a copy of that agreement.

Mr. Pickersgill: In French?

TRANSPORT

SHERBROOKE, QUE.—REPORTED FEDERAL ASSISTANCE IN CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERPASS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Samuel Boulanger (Drummond-Arthabaska): I should like to ask the Minister of Transport, or in his absence the acting minister, a question based on a report in the Sherbrooke newspaper in connection with a recent delegation from that city to the minister in question. Did the minister promise this delegation a grant for the construction of an underpass on Acadia street under the C.P.R. main line?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Not having received notice of the hon. member's intention to ask this question in the capacity in which I now appear I will have to take it as notice. I will bring the question to the attention of the minister for his early reply.

Mr. Boulanger: I did send a note before noon.

Mr. Fulton: I did not receive it.

PUBLIC WORKS

SHERBROOKE, QUE.—REPORTED FEDERAL ASSISTANCE IN CONSTRUCTION OF MAIN SEWER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Samuel Boulanger (Drummond-Arthabaska): I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Public Works with regard to a delegation which is reported to have visited Ottawa from the city of Sherbrooke. Was this delegation promised a grant for the construction of a main sewer which will cost \$1 million, with a view to relieving the unemployment situation in that city?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of this question. I have not had the privilege of meeting a delegation from Sherbrooke, but I should be very glad to meet such a delegation.

[Mr. Tucker.]

CANADIAN NATIONAL STEAMSHIPS

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF SALE AND SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester): May I ask a question of the acting minister in the absence of the Minister Transport. What action has been taken by the government following the recent request of the Halifax board of trade, as reported in this morning's *Montreal Gazette*, urging the federal government to reconsider its decision to sell the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships fleet, and also to end the seafarers' international union strike which began nearly a year ago and to return the ships to service?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the press report to which my hon. friend refers. I will have to have the press report studied and a reply made later.

Mr. Robichaud: The press report is in the minister's office, where it was sent earlier.

Mr. Fulton: It may be in the minister's office, but it is not in mine.

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me that this question has been before the house several times, and I am not sure that there is anything novel about it.

I would like to say that the ingenious device of giving apparent urgency to a question by asking whether someone has received a delegation or a communication seems to my mind to be going a bit too far. The urgency of the subject matter of the question is more important than whether or not a delegation or communication has been received within recent date.

Mr. Robichaud: If reference was made to my question, my question read "what action has been taken by the government".

Mr. Speaker: With respect to a communication from the Halifax city council, I think the hon. member said. My point was, the initial part of his question was that the Halifax board of trade had written a letter or sent a communication. The other part of the question has been dealt with quite extensively by the minister in the past.

Mr. Howard: I had a question for the Minister of Transport, but in view of what has taken place perhaps I will let it go.