

*Orders for Returns***QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS
FOR RETURNS****KENORA-RAINY RIVER ROAD CONSTRUCTION—
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE****Question No. 146—Mr. Benidickson:**

1. To what road construction projects (except trans-Canada highway) in the Kenora and Rainy river districts in Ontario has the government been asked by the government of Ontario, since February 1, 1957, to make a financial contribution?

2. To which projects has a contribution been made and how much was paid in each case?

AGE GROUP, 65-70**Question No. 150—Mr. Benidickson:**

1. How many persons are there over 65 years and under 70 years in each province?

2. How many persons in each province are receiving payment under the Old Age Assistance Act?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**MIDDLE EAST—CONSULTATION OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS MINISTERS AT WASHINGTON**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, can the Prime Minister indicate whether the report is accurate that the British foreign minister is flying to Washington to see the United States Secretary of State? If so, can he throw any light on the purpose of this mission?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the only light that I can throw on the question is that Right Hon. Selwyn Lloyd is going to Washington, there to consult with the Secretary of State of the United States, and the consultation will have to do with the gravity of the situation in the Middle East. Because of this fact I feel that the house generally will give support to the desire of the government to have the Secretary of State for External Affairs leave for Washington and be there tomorrow so that he may consult with the foreign minister of the United Kingdom and with Mr. Dulles.

If that is acceptable to members as a whole, then I would suggest that the debate on external affairs, which was to come up tomorrow and would have come up otherwise, be postponed for a few days. Necessarily, the Secretary of State for External Affairs would have to be present. I feel it is very necessary, having regard to conditions generally throughout the world, that the responsible minister in this very important field should be in Washington at this time to consult and also to be consulted with.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, in the circumstances we on this side are quite agreeable to the postponing of the debate that was to have taken place tomorrow, because it is

[Mr. Green.]

obviously important to have the Secretary of State for External Affairs here at the time of that debate. I would merely express my hope that perhaps the Secretary of State for External Affairs will find it possible not only to visit Washington on this trip and consult there with his two opposite numbers but might find it also possible to participate in the work of the security council at this very difficult time.

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, we in this group are very pleased to agree with the suggestion of the Prime Minister that the Secretary of State for External Affairs should make this trip to Washington to discuss the very grave matters that are in the minds of all of us. I would certainly agree with the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition that he might also visit the United Nations to use the prestige that Canada has in that world body in the interests of peace.

**MIDDLE EAST—INQUIRY AS TO PROTECTION OF
CANADIAN NATIONALS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, if I might at this time I should like to ask a question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the minister anything further to add to his statement regarding the safety of Canadian nationals in the Middle East; in particular, has the minister any information regarding the whereabouts and safety of a former member of this house, the former minister of labour, Hon. Milton Gregg?

Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of this question. As I endeavoured to indicate yesterday, in a foreign country in which Canada has no diplomatic representation it has been the practice for the United Kingdom diplomatic representative, the minister or ambassador, to look after Canadian interests. In Iraq—and I am repeating what I said yesterday because I desire to have the record clear—the British ambassador is normally responsible for the acceptance of registrations of Canadians resident in Iraq and for the extension to them of whatever protection is possible in times of emergency. Canadian citizens are thus accorded exactly the same treatment other British subjects would be given by the British embassy.

However, in countries where we have no representation and where it is not possible to work through the British embassy, we have had long-standing arrangements with the United States authorities whereby they will