

Inquiries of the Ministry

that the court of appeal has operated on a basis which, as I am sure the hon. gentleman will agree, was not beneficial to the administration of justice. This must have been recognized in 1957 when the legislature of Newfoundland provided for a further judge being appointed to the supreme court, that law to become effective on its proclamation by the attorney general of Newfoundland. For some reason that proclamation has never been brought about, and knowing the influence that the hon. gentleman has in Newfoundland I would suggest to him in the interest of that high standard of justice which all of us desire to achieve, he suggest the proclamation of that law which would expedite the setting up of a court of appeal which would have none of the weaknesses which would still be present even if the appointment in question had been made. I await the hon. gentleman's co-operation, knowing the power he possesses.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I shall be more than delighted to extend to the Prime Minister the co-operation he has asked for, but I suggest to him that the Newfoundland government would be more likely to proclaim this legislation if three months had not elapsed since the time the existing vacancy occurred. The fact is that there are only two judges, and for three months the Prime Minister has made no recommendation with respect to filling the existing vacancy.

TRANSPORT**PORT BORDEN-CAPE TORMENTINE—REQUEST FOR IMPROVED FERRY SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. O. H. Phillips (Prince): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister in a position to indicate the plans of his department for improved ferry service on the Port Borden-Cape Tormentine run?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the hon. member for his courtesy in advising me of his intention to ask this question. As a result of representations made by all four of the hon. members from Prince Edward Island, the matter of the adequacy of the present ferry service has been made the subject of a special study which was launched last autumn and is expected to be completed shortly. It will be recognized that this problem cannot be treated entirely separately from the question of a causeway, in the long run, but apart from this the interim situation is receiving our urgent attention.

Hon. members from the island have also suggested that consideration be given to [Mr. Diefenbaker.]

acquiring the passenger-vehicle ferry *Vacationland* or one of the other ferries formerly in use on the straits of Mackinac run, prior to the opening of the Mackinac straits bridge. This suggestion is being looked into.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question on the basis that when there was consideration of the supplementary estimates the other day the minister was absent and I asked this very question. Now the minister arises and states he answers the question because of inquiries from the four island members. The supplementary question I now ask is this. When were the studies started in connection with the causeway between the mainland and Prince Edward Island?

Mr. Hees: Several months ago, Mr. Speaker. I feel compelled to state that if I had known the hon. member intended to ask me a question the other day, naturally I would have made a point of being in the house.

FLOODS**BEAUCE, QUE.—REQUEST FOR BLASTING IN CHAUDIERE RIVER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Augustin Brassard (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the hon. member for Beauce, who has been prevented from returning to Ottawa because of a heavy storm in his district, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. In view of the fact that several well-informed people in Beauce district foresee that floods this year will be even worse than those which took place in recent years, will the minister consider the possibility—without necessarily having received a request to that effect from the provincial government—of blasting the major ice jams in the Chaudiere river to lessen to that extent the danger of flooding which threatens local property owners?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of this question. I have checked into the situation, and it appears that there is no responsibility on the federal government for blasting these ice jams in the Chaudiere river. This is entirely within the jurisdiction of the provincial government.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**MANITOBA—FEDERAL AID IN PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he or