

Inquiries of the Ministry

The placing of fill on Nuns' island.

In addition, a contract has been awarded for the section of the bridge between Nuns' island and the seaway canal, and work thereon should commence shortly. Tenders have been received for the superstructure between Montreal and Nuns' island and it is expected that the contract will be awarded within the next 10 days.

Plans have been completed and tenders for the main span over the seaway canal will be advertised on July 6.

Mr. Dupuis: I thank the minister for his answer.

PARLIAMENT HILL

INQUIRY AS TO SINGING OF "O CANADA"
DURING CEREMONIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Yvon Dupuis (St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville): I should like to ask the Secretary of State if he has an answer to the question I asked him yesterday about the hymn "O Canada"? He was supposed to answer my question today. Is the answer ready?

(Translation):

Hon. Henri Courtemanche (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member for St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville (Mr. Dupuis) that the Department of the Secretary of State had nothing to do with the ceremonies which took place here the day before yesterday, and I am unable to tell him what department is responsible for the arrangements.

Mr. Dupuis: The Secretary of State, who was present at those ceremonies, must have noticed that "God Save the Queen" was played three times but that "O Canada" was not played either before or after the ceremony.

Mr. Courtemanche: I understand this was done as a tribute to the Queen, as Her Majesty was present on the hill.

Mr. Dupuis: Could the minister answer my question, i.e.: Why was "O Canada" not played at the beginning or at the end of the trooping of the colours?

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: Is this not the same question the hon. member asked yesterday?

Mr. Dupuis: Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State says he does not know because he is not responsible. The reason I asked the minister to answer my question is—

Mr. Speaker: I understood the Secretary of State to say that he would provide an answer.

[Mr. Hees.]

Mr. Dupuis: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but he said he had no answer to give. I would like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. I would like to know why we did not hear "O Canada" before or after the ceremony of the presentation of the colours.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have no answer to give whatsoever. I do not know the circumstance. I do know that at all the functions "God Save the Queen" and "O Canada" either preceded or succeeded the function in question. What may have happened on this occasion, of course, I do not know.

Mr. Dupuis: Could I ask the Minister of National Defence if he has an answer to that question?

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): Would you mind repeating the question?

Mr. Dupuis: Mr. Speaker, I realize that the minister did not hear "O Canada" and did not hear the member for St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville. I would like to ask the minister why we did not hear "O Canada" before or after the ceremony of the presentation of colours the other day in front of the parliament buildings?

Mr. Pearkes: When Her Majesty arrived the royal salute was given, which is laid down as being certain bars of "God Save the Queen". No national anthem as such was played until the conclusion of the ceremony in the evening when "O Canada" was played.

Mr. Dupuis: That is a very poor answer.

FISHERIES

NEW BRUNSWICK—LIFT PERIOD OF MIRAMICHI
SALMON SEASON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. R. McWilliam (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Has a final decision been reached in regard to the dates of the lift period of the Miramichi salmon drifting season; and what is the position of the set net fishermen in this connection?

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, an order in council has been passed putting back the lift period for drift salmon netters in New Brunswick. I am not certain of the exact dates but I think the lift period will begin the 20th. In any case, it has been put back to a later time to meet a request which was made on behalf of the salmon drift netters in that area by their association, and also in response to representations made to me from other sources, Hon.