

of the house of representatives committee on roads, recommending the enactment of a bill authorizing the construction of a \$25,000,000 highway to Alaska. Apparently this is to be a second Alaska highway, to start at Prince George, and to join the present Alcan highway at White Horse, in the Yukon territory. Would the Prime Minister make a statement to the house concerning this matter?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member gave me notice of his question, and in reply may I say I am informed that the bill to which the report alludes was introduced in the last session of congress, and was reintroduced in the present session, in January. In each case the bill was introduced by interested members, and there is no indication that it has been looked upon as an administration measure. In each case it was referred to the appropriate congressional committees.

The Canadian government has received no intimation that the United States government is anxious that the proposed road should be constructed at this time. I cannot of course say what the policy of the United States is with regard to such matters, but I assume it is the same as the policy of the Canadian government. That policy is to build such roads as are required for the successful prosecution of the war, but not to divert a single man or a single machine to the construction of highways that are not required for this purpose.

There has been no indication either through the defence board or through diplomatic channels that the United States government considers the construction of a road from Prince George to White Horse necessary for the prosecution of the war.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY

DISCUSSIONS OF FINANCIAL PROBLEMS IN LONDON —QUESTION AS TO CANADIAN PARTICIPATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. JACKMAN (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) arising out of a Canadian Press dispatch dated March 3, as follows:

Important conferences on post-war currency and other financial problems "of common interest" are proceeding in London, a treasury announcement said to-day. The statement said one conference has "just been held". It was attended by finance ministers of allied countries with headquarters in London and representatives of the United States, Russia, China, the Dominions and the Fighting French.
[Mr. Green.]

I would ask this question: Was Canada represented and, secondly, if so who was the representative?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): A day or two ago the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Quelch) asked me a question with regard to a similar report, and I replied as follows:

The information I am in a position to give is that there has been no exchange of correspondence. Informal discussions on post-war economic and financial questions have taken place from time to time between Canadian officials and experts from the United Kingdom and the United States, and these discussions will doubtless continue. No commitments have been made by the Canadian government, and no commitments are likely to be made in the near future.

I notice that in the communication my hon. friend quoted the word used is "conference". I am inclined to think that some of these terms are used without attaching to them the significance which may be attached in the minds of others. There have been discussions, but so far as I know there has been nothing in the nature of what one would call a formal conference.

The high commissioner in London, I believe, has discussed informally some of these matters with representatives of other countries. One or two officials have gone from Canada to the United Kingdom and have, I believe, on occasions discussed informally financial questions. But there has been no formal conference, nor am I aware of our having received any official communication which would indicate that anything in the nature of a conference in these matters had been or was being held.

My hon. friend will understand and the house will no doubt appreciate the fact that there are frequent informal discussions on all matters pertaining to the war, and to post-war conditions, among officials of different governments of the united nations. But they are exploratory and informal, and not to be construed as in any way binding the governments concerned.

SOCIAL SECURITY

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SOCIAL INSURANCE

The house resumed from Thursday, March 4, consideration of the motion of Mr. Mackenzie King for the appointment of a select committee to examine and report on a national plan of social insurance.

Mr. ANTHONY HLYNKA (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the people of Canada