

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

with the possibility of ships going past the Deas tunnel to the city of New Westminster. There is 40 feet 9 inches of water over the Deas tunnel. I should like the minister to tell the house what the purpose is of having the tunnel down that depth if you are not going to be able to run ships up to the harbour at New Westminster.

**Mr. Winters:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure my hon. friend knows what the purpose of the tunnel is.

**Mr. Hahn:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** The question as to what purpose the department might have is a matter which should be debated and this is not the time for a debate.

**COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT****GASOLINE AND FUEL OIL—INQUIRY AS TO  
RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES REPORT  
ON INCREASED PRICES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. A. M. Nicholson (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Justice. I believe the Minister of Finance is the acting minister. I wonder whether the minister could inform the house whether or not he has received a report from the restrictive trade practices commission in connection with the recent increases in the prices of gasoline and fuel oil. In view of the fact that a probe has been ordered in the United States to investigate price-fixing collusion by the major oil companies, will the minister consider again ordering an inquiry under the Combines Investigation Act?

**Hon. W. E. Harris (Acting Minister of Justice):** I shall make inquiries, Mr. Speaker, as to whether or not the report has been received and advise the house.

**CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION****INDIAN AFFAIRS—STATEMENT ON TIME LIMIT OF  
OCCUPATION UNDER ACT**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** Perhaps I might be permitted to give an answer that I promised to the hon. member for The Battlefords. On Friday he asked me whether the time had expired under the Indian Act when Indians could protest the occupation of other persons on a reserve. He also asked whether there were any persons, other than those in the Samson case, under protest at the moment on Indian reserves.

The answer I gave to the first question the other day was correct. It is no longer possible to make protests about persons whose

names were placed on the band lists which were posted pursuant to the act of 1951. Such protests had to be lodged within six months of the posting of the lists. The only protests which can now be entertained are those respecting names which may be added to the lists from time to time in the future.

In addition to the Samson case there are four other cases which have been appealed to the courts where the courts have not rendered a decision. These cases involve 23 families. In the case of 18 families, the appeal is against the decision of the registrar that those families have Indian status. In the case of the other five families, the appeal is against the decision of the registrar that the families do not have Indian status.

**THE BUDGET****INQUIRY AS TO PROGRESS IN PREPARATION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River):** May I direct a question to my genial friend the Minister of Finance? Is he making progress in the preparation of the budget that will be presented to this house before the dissolution of parliament?

**Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have made a great deal of progress on the budget in recent days.

**PUBLIC WORKS****ANNAPOLIS RIVER—INQUIRY AS TO  
PROPOSED CAUSEWAY**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. G. C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings):** Can the Minister of Agriculture tell the house what is the present status of negotiations between Nova Scotia and the government of Canada with respect to the causeway across the Annapolis river, the announcement of which was made some time ago and which has not appeared in the main estimates?

**Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture):** Just a few moments ago I agreed to bring down the correspondence in connection with the matter under notices of motions for the production of papers. I presume it is the same matter about which the question is being asked.

There has been no change whatsoever in the meaning of the correspondence or discussions which have taken place as a result of the fact that there has been a change of government. There has been a change of government in Nova Scotia since the negotiations took place in connection with this matter and the present government has been notified, as the correspondence will indicate,