

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, July 16, 1958 [Later:]

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Fourth report of standing committee on miscellaneous private bills.—Mr. McCleave.

Second report of standing committee on veterans affairs.—Mr. Dinsdale.

Second report of sessional committee on railways, air lines and shipping owned and controlled by the government.—Mr. Rowe.

ESTIMATES—CONCURRENCE IN FOURTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. A. R. Smith (Calgary South) presented the fourth report of the standing committee on estimates, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

STARRED QUESTIONS

DEATH OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS EMPLOYEE,
SAIGON**Question No. 29—Mr. Fisher:**

1. Did an employee of the external affairs department die recently in Saigon?
2. If so, what was his name, career position, and original home address?
3. Where, when, and under what circumstances did the death take place?
4. Is the case completely closed? If not, what steps is the Canadian government taking to clear it up?

Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this question relates to an event that is supposed to have happened recently. I am not quite sure how one can interpret the word "recently" but I presume it refers to an event that happened in April of 1957. The answers to the questions are as follows:

- (1) Yes, in April, 1957.
- (2) A. E. L. Cannon, foreign service officer 4, Quebec city.
- (3) Saigon, April 12, 1957. Murder.
- (4) A thorough investigation was, of course, made but failed to establish responsibility. There is a possibility that further evidence may come to light and the case cannot, therefore, be considered as completely closed.

57071-3—145

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): May I ask a supplementary question following the answer given by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to this starred question. I should like to request that more information be given to me personally, rather than in the house, concerning part 3. Under all the circumstances I feel there was not sufficient detail supplied in the answer, and I would ask him if he would give me the details personally.

Mr. Smith (Hastings-Frontenac): I would be ready to discuss that with the hon. member.

WALTER MITCHELL

Question No. 30—Mr. Chevrier:

1. Was Walter Mitchell, of the city of Montreal, an employee of the Department of Agriculture at the port of Montreal?
2. If so, in what capacity and for how long?
3. Was he dismissed from his employment?
4. If so, for what reason and on whose recommendation?

He said: Mr. Speaker, is the acting minister in a position to answer this question?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Acting Minister of Agriculture): No, Mr. Speaker, I am not. I would ask that the question stand.

Mr. Chevrier: It has stood twice now.

Question stands.

HIGHWAY BRIDGE, CHATHAM-FERRY ROAD, N.B.

Question No. 31—Mr. McWilliam:

Does the federal government assume any responsibility, in whole or in part, in connection with the proposed construction of a highway bridge across the Miramichi river between Chatham and Ferry Road, New Brunswick?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the answer to this question is that this would depend on whether the federal government had any responsibility for the highway of which such a bridge would form part.