

Supply—Transport

prepared, and cover the different periods. I assume, for instance, that the minister has the so-called supplementary reports for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1959 available now. I think these should be distributed along with the annual report, so that by the time the estimates of the department are dealt with members would have an opportunity to go through them and become familiar with the information they contain.

Mr. Hees: I assure the hon. member I am taking his suggestion very seriously. We gave, on past occasions, what many people considered to be too much information. The report was too bulky. We cut it down to try to please the people of Canada and members of parliament. Now, according to the hon. member, people are not pleased, they want more information. Well, next year we will give more information. I hope to have information this afternoon as to just what supplementary reports are available at the moment. If some reports are not available now they could be made available soon. They will be sent to anyone the hon. member, or any other member, wishes. We are trying to be as helpful and constructive as possible.

Mr. Carter: Did I correctly understand the minister to say a while ago that no consideration was being given to the revision of agency boundaries?

Mr. Hees: No. May I correct the hon. member? We are considering possible changes in some agency boundaries, but no decisions have been reached. If the hon. member would like to talk with my departmental officials about particular boundaries in which he is interested we would appreciate the benefit of his advice.

Mr. Carter: I was going to enunciate the principle that in my opinion agency boundaries should be confined within provincial boundaries. There is some overlapping, I know, on the west coast of Newfoundland where certain lights come under the Prince Edward Island agency. That makes administration difficult and complicates the discussion of problems in connection with these lights and other aids. Can the minister say how many agencies there are which cross provincial boundaries?

Mr. Hees: I believe there are two, and there may be a third. We will check.

Mr. Fisher: On this item I think one can discuss railway transportation and the royal commission on transportation. There have been a number of representations made to the commission. Because of his busy schedule I doubt whether the minister has been able to follow very closely the presentations that

have been made. The province of Quebec did make an interesting presentation in their argument for extension of marine services. I wonder whether the minister has happened to read those particular recommendations which were made by the province of Quebec. I see he shakes his head.

The brief was presented by a cabinet minister of Quebec, who argued that the only way to solve the problem of the maximum use of Quebec ports with the new seaway was to reduce the closed season of navigation. The brief went on to argue that the costs of the closed season, through having to build up considerable stocks, pay large insurance premiums, lay off hundreds of skilled workers, and so on, were very great to Quebec. The argument, in brief, is that winter navigation is necessary.

The brief went on to argue that there was nothing new in the idea of winter navigation. It even went on to give some indication that the provincial government has been spending funds in order to extend the season. It points out that the Canadian ship *Eskimo* reached Three Rivers in January of 1960. But the conclusion the Quebec government comes to in its presentation is and I read:

Our ports should remain open for 12 months of the year and this has become necessary for the economic development for the eastern portion of our province in order to reduce the cost of transportation which will profit thousands of Canadian shippers and receivers. The government of this province supports the promoters of navigation 12 months of the year in our ports and in our navigable waters.

In view of the discussion we have had it is interesting to have this on the record. But I wanted to come to one particular point and ask the minister and his officials whether they have this information. The Quebec minister, Mr. Johnson, made this presentation and he said:

Economists and geographers have calculated the tonnages which can be carried during a typical winter, not only in the port of Quebec, but in all the other ports of the estuary and the gulf, namely Pointe au Pic, Forestville, Baie Comeau and Seven Islands on the north side and Rimouski, Pointe au Pere on the south side.

This brief does not give the figures of the economic savings. The question I should like to ask the minister is, have any of his economists or geographers been involved in these estimates? Are there any studies or reports available in this particular regard?

Mr. Hees: No. I am advised that the lower St. Lawrence development association has made those studies, but there is no connection between them and the federal government.

Mr. Fisher: May I put it this way. Can the minister provide me or other hon. members with any of this material from his collecting