

## Questions

Answer by: **Mr. Graffey:**

Decisions concerning requests for tax changes are made known in the annual budget.

## \*JURISDICTION OVER COASTAL STEAMER SERVICES

Question No. 473—**Mr. Barnett:**

Will the Minister of Transport announce his decision with respect to introducing an amendment to the Transport Act to bring coastal steamer services in British Columbia under the jurisdiction of the board of transport commissioners, the consideration of which was announced on September 28, 1962?

**Mr. McBain:** In reply to a question on the orders of the day on September 28, 1962, it was stated that consideration would be given to the suggestion. Any announcement in respect of this matter will be made in the usual manner.

## WINTER WORKS—REMOVAL OF GRADE CROSSINGS

Question No. 486—**Mr. Latulippe:**

Does the government's policy with respect to winter works include the removal of level railway crossings and, if so, have the railway companies entered into any agreement concerning the payment of material and equipment used for the removal of level railway crossings, under the winter works program?

Answer by: **Mr. Hales:**

No.

## CANADIAN MEMBERSHIP IN O.A.S.

Question No. 488—**Mr. Kelly:**

Has the government given consideration, to Canadian membership in the organization of the American states, since May 17, 1961?

Answer by: **Mr. Diefenbaker:**

Yes. The question of Canadian membership in the organization of American states has been and is being kept under continuous review but no final decision has been taken.

RIMOUSKI, QUE.—BUILDING CONSTRUCTION  
BRANCH OFFICE

Question No. 495—**Mr. Legare:**

Has the Department of Public Works assessed the advantages to be derived from the establishment of an office of its building construction branch at Rimouski and, if so, has an affirmative decision been made, and on what date will the project be carried out?

Answer by: **Mr. McCleave:**

Yes. The government has assessed the advantages of establishing an office of the building construction branch at Rimouski but it appears that the architectural work can be carried out from Quebec city with engineering assistance from the Rimouski office.

[Mr. Brown.]

## HOUSING UNITS DESTROYED BY FIRE, ETC., 1961

Question No. 499—**Mr. Laprise:**

How many housing units were destroyed in 1961 by fire, flood, lightning, etc.?

Answer by: **Mr. McCleave:**

No information is available as to the number of housing units destroyed by fire, flood, lightning, etc.

During 1961 there were 62,096 fires in residential property from all causes including lightning, resulting in \$33,108,236 damage.

## FARM CREDIT CORPORATION—COST OF BORROWING

Question No. 501—**Mr. Roy:**

What is the rate of interest paid by the Farm Credit Corporation on the money it lends to farmers?

Answer by: **Mr. Pigeon:**

The average rate of interest paid on borrowings as of March 31, 1962 was 4.6 per cent. Borrowing from April 1, 1962 to September 30, 1962 were at 4.5 per cent and the rate on present borrowing is 5.5 per cent.

## ST. PLACIDE, QUE.—WHARF REPAIR

Question No. 502—**Mr. Drouin:**

1. Is it the intention of the government to repair the wharf at St. Placide (Deux-Montagnes) and, if so, (a) on what date will the work begin (b) what repairs will be carried out?

2. Has the contract been awarded for this work and, if so, to whom, and for what amount?

Answer by: **Mr. McCleave:**

1. Yes. (a) Work started October 16, 1962. (b) Repairs to wharf approach involving filling of holes and consolidation with stone.

2. Contract awarded to Jean Maris Cote at \$2965.

## SALE OF BUTTER OIL

Question No. 505—**Mr. Matheson:**

Has the government negotiated a sale of butter oil with any foreign country during the last 30 days and, if so, with what country or countries and upon what terms including price?

Answer by: **Mr. Jorgenson:**

No sales of butter oil have been negotiated by the government with any foreign country during the last 30 days.

\*SLAVE RIVER AREA, N.W.T.—BUFFALO ANTHRAX  
PROTECTION

Question No. 513—**Mrs. Hardie:**

1. What steps has the government taken, other than the issue of a newspaper warning indicating the limits of the infected area, to protect the population of the Slave river area from anthrax prevalent among buffalo in the area?

2. How is it proposed to ensure that no part of a buffalo, the hunting of which is permitted, is transported into or out of the infected area?