

ing it up. It is the question of setting up the committee of public accounts that was dealt with.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, no.

Mr. DIFENBAKER: This reads:

Thousands of dollars had been spent on office supplies, furniture and equipment, he charged, without the requisitions ever having been submitted to him for approval.

I think the house and the country should know from the minister whether those allegations are in accordance with the facts and, secondly, whether or not a complaint, either verbal or in writing, was ever made to the minister by Colonel Thompson against unapproved or unauthorized expenditures being made.

Hon. L. R. LaFLECHE (Minister of National War Services): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. gentleman was not in the house when I made my statement.

Mr. DIFENBAKER: Oh, yes.

Mr. LaFLECHE: May I say that I have already given an answer to the first question.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. LaFLECHE: I think I did.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): No, you just travelled all over the lot.

Mr. LaFLECHE: In regard to the second question, the answer is, no.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In other words, he covered the ground.

ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

STATEMENT IN QUEBEC LEGISLATURE RESPECTING SINKINGS IN ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the acting Minister of National Defence for Naval Services. I have already placed in his hand a press dispatch covering a debate which took place yesterday in the legislative assembly of Quebec, in which the premier and others took a prominent part. Is the minister prepared to make a statement in connection with the points then raised?

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I looked up the statement, which my hon. friend was good enough to send me. Apparently the matter arose out of something which was said by my colleague the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services (Mr. Macdonald) in Quebec, and the statement made by the Hon. Mr. Gagnon was

dealing with the statement of the minister. I have therefore thought it would be more appropriate for my colleague to deal with it, since he will be here on Monday. In the meantime, however, so that there may be no misapprehension, I wish to say I am advised that the statement the Hon. Mr. Gagnon made is definitely not in accordance with the facts.

Mr. GRAYDON: Does that apply to the premier as well?

Mr. RALSTON: I am speaking of Mr. Gagnon.

Mr. GRAYDON: Does that apply to the premier of the province as well?

Mr. RALSTON: I did not refer to him.

Mr. ROWE: He made the same statement.

Mr. GRAYDON: He made another statement.

Mr. RALSTON: I am dealing with Mr. Gagnon's statement.

HEALTH

PRESS REPORT AS TO ANNUAL FEDERAL GRANT TO THE CITY OF HALIFAX

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggart): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. Mackenzie). Is he correctly reported in today's press, in which it is stated that the sum of money allotted by order in council to improve conditions in Halifax is \$30,000? Is this relatively small sum the substantial amount to which he referred last night?

Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Minister of Pensions and National Health): The sum which will be granted for the purposes specified will be \$30,000 a year during each year of the war, and continued one year thereafter. But for the first year the sum will be \$45,000, and for the second year \$15,000 to assist in the construction of a hospital for tuberculosis.

ALASKA HIGHWAY

PRESS REPORT AS TO PROPOSAL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM PRINCE GEORGE TO WHITE HORSE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. C. GREEN (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). A press dispatch from Washington published to-day states that Secretary of the Interior Ickes has written a letter to the chairman