

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, May 27, 1969

The house met at 2 p.m.

[Translation]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ninth report of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, in French and in English—Mr. H.-Pit Lessard (LaSalle).

[Editor's note: The text of the foregoing report appears in today's Votes and Proceedings.]

[English]

THE BUDGET

TABLING OF BUDGETARY PAPERS

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table copies in English and in French of the usual budgetary papers and I ask consent of the house to have the papers printed as an appendix to today's Votes and Proceedings and also included as an appendix to Hansard of Tuesday, June 3 when I intend to present the budget.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING FAIR COMPETITION

Mr. Fernand-E. Leblanc (Laurier) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-203, an Act to amend the National Transportation Act (Fair competition of railway companies).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Leblanc (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, this bill is meant to protect the private trucking industry against the intrusion of railways in road transportation.

It does not seem fair to me that railway companies that directly or indirectly receive subsidies out of public funds should use the amounts thus granted to compete with an

industry which does not have the same advantages and which must pay its own way.

Moreover, in the public interest, it is necessary to have two separate means of transportation which can really compete, as is the case in other countries.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

[English]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

WATER RESOURCES

POLLUTION—DISCUSSION AT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE—INDUSTRIAL PREVENTIVE MEASURES—PLACENTIA BAY

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister. When the federal-provincial conference convenes on June 11 next, will the Prime Minister give consideration to discussing with the premiers the possibility of setting up another federal-provincial conference no later than the early part of the summer to discuss and work out with the three levels of government in all parts of the country an effective co-operative program which can be started in the relatively near future aimed at ridding our waters of the pollution which is encroaching upon them at such an alarming rate at the present time?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The question of pollution will inevitably come up when we discuss the division of powers between the two levels of government, and of course the latter is on the agenda. We do not expect it to be dealt with at the forthcoming meeting in June in any detail but we do expect at that time to receive reports on this matter from committees of officials and we will then know what next steps are called for in terms of future meetings, whether they be held in July, August or later.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In preparing for this conference would the Prime Minister consider making available to industry the same incentives as were found to be very useful in time of war in making it possible for industry to enter