

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

INDUSTRY**REPORTS BY FORD MOTOR COMPANY RESPECTING DEFECTIVE AUTOMOBILES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Graffley (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, it was reported today that massive defects in Ford motor vehicles were reported to the United States government. I wish to ask the Minister of Industry whether the Ford Motor Company of Canada have made similar reports to him regarding defective Canadian vehicles on the road at this time.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure to what particular reports the hon. gentleman is referring, but the Ford Motor Company of Canada in addition to notifying the purchasers of cars with real or suspected defects also notifies the government.

COAL**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, the other day I put a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and in his absence it was answered by the Prime Minister. My question concerned negotiations concerning coal shipments to Japan. I wonder whether the minister is now in a position to report on that matter.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the negotiations have been going on for three years. The parties to the negotiations are members of two private industries, the coal industry of Canada and the steel industry of Japan. The Dominion Coal Board is fully informed on the negotiations, but on a confidential basis; I think it would be improper for me to report on them.

TRANSPORT**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CAUSEWAY—POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION CHANGES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works concerning what is doubtless the greatest undertaking in which his department is engaged. Since he replied to my question on February 8 has the minister or his

[Mr. Pepin.]

department received another or fuller report from Mr. O. J. McCulloch on the Northumberland strait crossing? If so, has such report prompted any consideration of changes in design or scheduling of this important project?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I do not recall the precise date on which Mr. O. J. McCulloch forwarded his report to the Department of Public Works, but that date was disclosed in the answer to the written question given in this house. Whatever the date was, whether before or after the 8th, the report is now being studied to see whether any changes in the plans for construction of the crossing are warranted.

BRITISH COLUMBIA—STEPS TO SETTLE WHARFAGE DISPUTE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport arising out of the letter he tabled yesterday appointing Dr. T. G. How to look into the administration of small vessel harbours on the British Columbia coast. Will the minister suspend the operation of the side wharfage section of the government wharves and piers regulations until the report by Dr. How has been submitted?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I doubt whether it is usual to suspend the operation of a law while an investigation is carried out.

Mr. Barnett: A supplementary question. Would the minister at least agree not to extend the application of the side wharfage regulations to those places to which heretofore they had not applied, until this report is received?

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not think the minister in any event would have power to do anything of this kind, sir.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**REQUEST FOR TABLING OF INTERNAL INFORMATION PUBLICATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Would the minister table in the house the new internal information publications issued on his authority for the purpose of counteracting criticism of his policies?