

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY**ALBERTA—NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIANS ON STONY RESERVE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Decore (Vegreville): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. It is reported by the Canadian Press that, according to the Alberta provincial minister of highways, no further work will be done on the new route of the trans-Canada highway west of Calgary until a final agreement is made with the Indians of the Stony Indian reserve. Is the minister aware of this situation and would he care to make any comment?

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Public Works): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the situation. The route tentatively chosen by the government of Alberta was through the Morley reserve of the Stony Indians. The minister responsible, the Hon. Mr. Taylor, spoke to me and we have had an exchange of correspondence. I have also discussed the matter with my colleague, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. There have been negotiations conducted between the band council and the provincial government, all with the knowledge and approval of the officials of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. The last report I had from Mr. Taylor was to the effect that negotiations were proceeding satisfactorily. I have had nothing since that.

INQUIRY AS TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH QUEBEC

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. W. Hodgson (Victoria, Ont.): Can the Minister of Public Works say whether any negotiations are under way at the moment with the province of Quebec concerning the trans-Canada highway?

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Public Works): I have received no representations from the province of Quebec.

Mr. Hodgson: May I ask a supplementary question? Has the minister undertaken any negotiations with the province of Quebec with a view to doing more on the trans-Canada highway?

Mr. Winters: I have had recent informal discussions with the premier of Quebec, but I do not know whether they could be termed negotiations.

ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCES**INQUIRY AS TO SETTING UP OF ARTS COUNCIL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George H. Hees (Broadview): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister reached

Inquiries of the Ministry

a decision as to whether or not he will set up the arts council at this session of parliament?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, no definite decision has been reached.

Mr. Hees: Could the Prime Minister indicate when he may reach a decision on the matter?

Mr. St. Laurent: No, Mr. Speaker; the best I could do would be to say that as soon as a decision has been reached it will be announced.

CANSO CAUSEWAY**OPENING CEREMONIES—INQUIRY AS TO ARRANGEMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. J. MacEachen (Inverness-Richmond): Can the Minister of Transport tell the house whether a definite date has yet been selected for the official opening of the Canso causeway? If so, are any arrangements being made to mark this event with public ceremonies?

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): I do not believe a definite date has yet been set, Mr. Speaker. A committee has been appointed to co-ordinate the activities of all those interested in the opening of the Canso causeway, and I hope it will be possible to make an announcement on the subject at an early date.

RAILWAYS AND SHIPPING**ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS AND SHIPPING OWNED, OPERATED AND CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport) moved:

That a sessional committee on railways and shipping owned, operated and controlled by the government, be appointed to consider the accounts and estimates and bills relating thereto of the Canadian National Railways, the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships, and Trans-Canada Air Lines, saving always the powers of the committee of supply in relation to the voting of public moneys; and that the said committee be empowered to send for persons, papers, and records and to report from time to time and that, notwithstanding standing order 65 in relation to the limitation of the number of members, the said committee consist of Messrs: Bell, Carrick, Carter, Cavers, Churchill, Dumas, Fairey, Follwell, Fulton, Gillis, Hahn, Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace), Hanna, Harrison, Healy, James, Johnston (Bow River), Knight, Langlois (Gaspé), Lavigne, Legare, Macdonnell, McCulloch (Pictou), Murphy (Westmorland), Pouliot, Weaver.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this motion seeks the appointment of a sessional committee on railways and shipping owned, operated and controlled by the government. As the house well