

Mr. REID: It is hardly necessary for me to tell the minister how important the Fraser river is. I rise now to bring to his attention a matter which is agitating the people there to a considerable extent, and that is the question of a modern lightship at the mouth of Fraser river. The government is spending thousands of dollars to put the river in first class shape for shipping. It has been examined by mariners, and they lay the blame for many accidents on faulty lighting. Has an application been made to the minister's department in connection with a modern lightship for the river?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That is a matter which is under the jurisdiction of the Marine department. I shall draw the hon. member's question to the attention of my colleague.

Mr. REID: I shall be pleased if you will have this done. With regard to dredging, has the minister received an application for dredging for airport purposes at Lulu island?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That is a civic airport?

Mr. REID: Yes; and that also is a very important project, many thousands of dollars having been spent there. In view of the fact that the Post Office Department is advertising from one end of Canada to the other, to induce people to use air lines, some consideration should be given to the development of that project, and it cannot be accomplished unless there is dredging.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): So far as I know, the Public Works department has not yet embarked on any expenditures on air ports.

Mr. NEILL: Ripple rock, which hon. gentleman have been discussing, happens to be situated in the district I have the honour to represent, and I approve the government's decision to delay action until they get a scientific report from the engineers whom they have appointed to make that investigation. I would ask, however, why that report is not available. The investigation took place months ago and I have seen in the British Columbia papers what purports to be a summary of the report. If it is available on the street corners in Vancouver it ought to be available to the department and to the members of this house. What has become of it?

Mr. DURANLEAU: With reference to Ripple rock, I have already intimated that the report has been received at my department, but it has not yet been studied and I do

not know whether it should be laid on the table of the house. We shall study it and in a few days we shall probably be in a position to say whether it is available to the public.

Mr. NEILL: May I ask the minister why it cannot be available? The report was got out by government engineers with reference to a matter of public concern, and there is a doubt in the minister's mind whether he will let us know what is in it. We have already been promised by the Minister of Public Works that it will be available as soon as it is brought down. We now find it is in the possession of the Marine department—I do not know how long they have had it. I would ask now along what lines of thought it could be argued that the report should not be available to the public?

Mr. DURANLEAU: Sometimes public questions may arise which might make that course inadvisable.

Mr. NEILL: Why, in this instance?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I do not say there is any reason against it, but I say that the report has not been studied yet and I do not know whether it will be advisable to lay it before the house.

Mr. NEILL: Then I would ask a further question: What further period of incubation will be required before it is decided whether it should be laid on the table?

Mr. DURANLEAU: It will not be long.

Mr. HANBURY: I have here a copy of the Vancouver Province of April 24, which carries this headline:

Engineers ask removal of Ripple rock. Work may be postponed a year.

Evidently this information has been given outside the house, or else the papers as usual are making statements for which there is no foundation. But if the newspapers have information the members of this house are at least entitled to the same information.

Mr. DURANLEAU: The undertaking is considerable, and though no information was given by my department, so far as I know, I do not think that this work can be done this year on account of the large expense involved. I am sure that no information was given by my department.

Sir EUGENE Fiset: What item are we discussing?

Mr. NEILL: We have a right to finish the present discussion, having taken it up. The minister's remark now is to the effect that he does not think, under present financial con-