

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

the minister last session? If so, can the minister say why work came to a halt soon after March 31?

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the road in question was part of many requests by the government of Ontario to the federal government under the roads to resources program. There has been no agreement between the province of Ontario and the federal government (a) as to the individual roads that will be part of a general agreement or (b) as to the general terms of the agreement between the two governments.

**Mr. Benidickson:** May I address a supplementary question. There have been some press reports concerning a new policy with respect to roads to resources. On January 7 during the last session of the house the minister asked permission to have printed as an appendix to *Hansard* his letter to the premiers—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Benidickson:** —in which he made an offer with respect to access roads of a relatively smaller nature than is indicated in the press releases. Would he tell the house the new policy that has been offered to the provinces?

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** I am very glad to be able to correct any false impression of this nature. The original offer made on January 7 is still the same. The reaction of seven provinces has been enthusiastic and completely co-operative. The negotiations that are being carried on with the government of Ontario are very active both at the ministerial level and at the official level. As a matter of fact, the very fine mining and access roads program of the Ontario government has been an inspiration, I believe, to all provinces in the matter of opening up resource areas.

I think I have caught the main points of the hon. member's question. If not, I will answer further.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## REPORTED STATEMENT RESPECTING ELECTION PROMISES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Guy Rouleau (Dollard):** I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Does the Prime Minister agree with the words spoken by Professor D. W. Fox, the Ontario young Conservative, as reported in this morning's *Gazette* by Mr. Blakely, to the effect that

[Mr. Benidickson.]

the only thing one has to do to be elected to office is to make as many promises as one can?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** I am glad to see that my hon. friend is reading the proceedings of the young Conservative association. As an answer, I would suggest that he consult with his own leader, the Leader of the Opposition, who made many promises which did not prove as effectual as the prophecy made by the gentleman in question.

## DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

## INQUIRY AS TO DATE OF NEXT MEETING

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** May I ask the Prime Minister a question, now that he has mentioned promises.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I think most hon. members will recognize that the last question was not one which was properly introduced. Perhaps we can offset the reply, which was in the same category, and not carry it any farther.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** This is a promise of another character. May I ask the Prime Minister if, as a result of his luncheon yesterday with the premier of Ontario, he is in a position to tell us now when the next dominion-provincial conference will take place?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** The answer to that question is simply this. I did not have luncheon yesterday with the premier of Ontario.

## PUBLIC SERVICE

## STATEMENT ON CIVIL SERVANTS RECEIVING SALARIES WITHOUT PERFORMING DUTIES

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Henri Courtemanche (Secretary of State):** In reply to the inquiry by the hon. member for Kootenay West on Friday last concerning certain civil servants receiving their salaries without performing any duties, may I say that I was in touch with the civil service commission and was informed that the commission does not know of any such cases. I feel that the hon. member should be asked to supply the names of such civil servants and the departments in which they are employed, so that a further search can be made.

**Mr. Herridge:** I shall be quite willing to do so.