

HAINES CUT-OFF—U.S. OFFER OF WINTER MAINTENANCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Has the government yet reached a decision on the offer of the government of the state of Alaska with respect to the all weather maintenance of the Haines road?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think it was on Friday last I indicated to the hon. member that the matter was under very active discussion. I am pleased now to tell the house that we have already offered to the state of Alaska to extend for another one year trial, the same amount of money that we paid last year, which was \$127,050 U.S. funds. This offer has been communicated to the government of Alaska.

Mr. Nielsen: As a supplementary question, is this then a counter offer to the offer of the state of Alaska to maintain the road on the basis of \$167,000? Is that not correct?

Mr. Laing: We have good reason to hope and believe too, that the payment which was made last year will be acceptable again.

TRANSPORT

PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATION AT BRIEFING ON RAILWAY LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, because of the indisposition of the Minister of Transport, I should like to address my question to the acting minister. In view of the notice that went out this morning to members to attend an informal briefing in connection with the railway legislation, would the government consider inviting to this meeting the appointed representatives of the interested provinces?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Acting Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of the particular notice referred to, but I will immediately look into the matter and consider it.

Mr. Hamilton: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the acting minister, in making his inquiries, make reference to the implications of this act to the province of Quebec, so that province will be among those invited?

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I have not indicated at this stage that any province

Inquiries of the Ministry

would be invited, but I will look into the observations made by the hon. member.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

HULL, QUE.—INQUIRY AS TO CONSTRUCTION

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Alexis Caron (Hull): Now that the 30 day delay requested by the Minister of Public Works is over, could the minister tell us what is the situation as regards the negotiations concerning the construction of federal buildings in Hull?

Hon. J. P. Deschatelets (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I was hoping that I could announce today the construction of a federal building in Hull but unfortunately I am not yet in a position to do so.

However, I expect to be able to announce shortly the construction of two federal buildings, one in Hull and one in the city of Eastview.

[Text]

Mr. D. V. Pugh (Okanagan Boundary): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the minister is prepared now to announce whether the new federal building for Kelowna, British Columbia is ready to be built?

TRANSPORTATION

LACK OF RAILWAY PASSENGER ACCOMMODATION, MONTREAL-VANCOUVER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Last Friday I asked him about the lack of passenger accommodation on C.P.R. trains between Montreal and Vancouver, and he indicated that he would refer this matter to the Minister of Transport. I am sorry to hear that the Minister of Transport is ill and may not be resuming his duties for several days. I wonder whether the Prime Minister has taken this matter up directly with the Canadian Pacific Railway and, if not, perhaps he can advise us who is doing so.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the matter has been taken up, but we have not as yet received a reply to our request for information. As soon as that reply is received it will be given to the house.