

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Commerce referred in the house last Friday afternoon? What I am particularly interested in knowing is whether the bill will be introduced at this session despite the threat made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce that if it were going to be debated it would not be introduced.

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I made no such threat; and if my hon. friend will read from *Hansard* what I said on that occasion he will find there is no foundation for his remarks.

**Mr. Coldwell:** Well, I took the minister to mean that.

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, there is a resolution on the order paper and when the resolution is passed the bill will be ready for introduction.

**Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Will the Prime Minister tell the house to which resolution he refers? I have the order paper before me and I do not see at the moment one that has been introduced by the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

**Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East):** There is a resolution concerning amendments to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act and there will be a resolution concerning interim loans on wheat.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Then the resolution regarding loans will be introduced. Apparently that is the one to which the Minister of Trade and Commerce referred and which the Prime Minister inadvertently or mistakenly said was already on the order paper.

**Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East):** I am sorry; I did not look at the order paper. I said what I did because the resolution had been before us and it had been determined that we would get the approval of the Governor General to its introduction.

**Mr. Coldwell:** Since the Minister of Trade and Commerce asked me to look at *Hansard*, may I say that I have looked at *Hansard*, and if he will look at page 1124 he will see that he used these words:

I cannot ask for the time this session from the leader of the house which would seem to be required to put that bill through and it may have to go over until the fall or whenever we have another session. I might try it for a day. If it goes through, all right, but if it does not the bill is out.

I took it to be certainly, as I used the term, a threat that if the bill did not go through in a day, then it would not go through at all.

[Mr. Coldwell.]

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** That remark was made in the light of the fact that it took four days' debate to have the bill for a change in one date discussed. I also recall that it took several weeks to put through a similar bill at the last session. I said that this session we had not time for the discussion should the C.C.F. try to talk the bill out, as they have tried to talk out other bills. Every member of the C.C.F. spoke at length on the change of date bill, just as they tried to talk out the wheat legislation of last session.

**Mr. Coldwell:** I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. Certainly my colleagues did not try to talk out the bill. As a matter of fact, the bill continues an act in which we were primarily interested when the government was opposed to a wheat pool in the sense we have it now. Had the objections to extraneous matters been raised that were raised by my friend the hon. member for Moose Mountain (Mr. McCullough) to the speech that was made by the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre (Mr. Thatcher) the debate would not have been that prolonged.

**HIGHWAYS****BRITISH COLUMBIA—APPLICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DEAS ISLAND TUNNEL**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. F. G. J. Hahn (New Westminster):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. In view of the answer the minister gave me on Friday last that the guaranteed depth of the Fraser river at low water in the first narrows is 37 feet 6 inches, would he now answer the question I asked him that day, namely would he guarantee that the same depth will be maintained at all times from the mouth of the Fraser river to the city of New Westminster, that is to a depth of 37 feet 6 inches?

**Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member will recall that when I answered the previous question I said that the design depth over the centre line of the tunnel was 40 feet 9 inches and that the government of British Columbia was to undertake to maintain that depth both over the centre line of the tunnel and within a certain distance of either side of the centre line. It is the government of British Columbia that is giving the undertaking to maintain the depth to which I referred.

**Mr. Hahn:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The question has to do