

*Motions for Papers*MATERIALS AND LABOUR FOR CONSTRUCTION
OF THEATRES

Mr. CHURCH:

1. What rules and regulations have been laid down by the government regarding building materials and labour for the erection of theatres?
2. Are theatres given priority over the building of houses at the present time?
3. Have any complaints been received by the government or officials thereof, from the corporation of the city of Toronto or individuals there, relating to the providing of labour and building materials for the erection of theatres?
4. What priorities as to building exist now in Toronto?

CLARKE STEAMSHIPS—NORTH SHORE
ST. LAWRENCE SERVICES

Mr. DORION:

During the last fiscal year, what amounts were granted by the various departments to the Clarke Steamship Limited, for each of the services performed by this company on the north shore of the St. Lawrence river?

PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE—WESTERN
PROVINCES

Mr. QUELCH:

1. How much money was paid to the farmers in each of the three western provinces under the P.F.A.A. for the three years 1943, 1944, 1945 respectively?
2. How much money was collected under the one per cent levy in each province during that period?

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

K. R. & O.—PHYSICAL DISABILITIES—1939

Mr. POULIOT:

For a copy of each amendment to the King's Regulations and Orders for the Canadian militia, 1939, concerning the physical disabilities of the men, showing the date of each one.

Mr. ABBOTT: Return tabled.

EVIDENCE AT TRIAL OF KURT MEYER

Mr. DIEFENBAKER:

For a copy of the transcript of the evidence taken by the court on the trial of S.S. General Kurt Meyer.

Mr. ABBOTT: I do not rise to oppose this motion, but I want to point out to the house that ordinarily court martial proceedings are not producible before parliament. There have been a number of cases in which that question has come up and the request has always been refused. I appreciate that this is an exceptional case, in that the person tried was not a Canadian subject, and therefore I am prepared to allow the motion to pass, but on the understanding that this is not a precedent but a special case.

There is one further point. We have only one copy of this evidence here in Canada. It [Mr. Church.]

is very lengthy, covering four large volumes. The task of copying it would be rather long and expensive, so perhaps my hon. friend and I could arrange for him to take communication of it at some convenient place, so that we may not have to produce in the house the only copy we have. If he insists on the evidence being copied, of course that can be done, but I think we can arrive at some satisfactory arrangement for him to take communication of it.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: So far as the copying is concerned, there is no necessity for that. In regard to the other point raised by the minister, while it is true that according to decisions rendered in the past, court martial evidence is not producible in the house, I should like to point out that this was not a court martial. This was a body set up as an international court by order in council under the provisions of the War Measures Act.

Mr. SPEAKER: Carried subject to the remarks of the minister.

COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE ON KURT MEYER

Mr. DIEFENBAKER:

For a copy of all letters, papers, memos of telephone conversations and other documents which passed between Lieutenant General Chris Vokes and any officer or officers of the trial, tribunal, and/or any senior staff officers of the Canadian Army, and/or legal officers of the Department of Justice and the Department of External Affairs, touching on the commutation of the sentence passed on S.S. General Kurt Meyer.

Mr. ABBOTT: I am sorry to have to oppose this motion, on the well-known grounds that communications between junior officers and senior officers or between departmental officials are privileged, and that it is not in the public interest to produce them in parliament. I have raised the same point on other occasions, as my hon. friend well knows. I shall be pleased to make a statement on this matter at the appropriate time, and to answer any questions. I may say here that there were no communications with any minister of the crown or any government officials in Ottawa relating to this matter. Their advice was neither sought nor given, but I must take the stand that the various documents referred to—letters, papers, memos of telephone conversations and the like if there are any, between General Vokes and the other officers of the tribunal, or senior staff officers at headquarters in London—are privileged communications and not producible in parliament, such production being not in the public interest.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dropped.