

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

bridges to be built by the Ontario government over the Welland ship canal at Homer, at Welland and at Port Colborne, as reported in today's *Toronto Globe and Mail*? Also, are tolls to be charged on those bridges?

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport I will take the question as notice and see that it is brought to his attention for an early reply.

MONTREAL—INQUIRY AS TO CONSTRUCTION OF  
THIRD BRIDGE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Adrien Meunier (Papineau):** I would like to ask the Minister of Transport, or in his absence the acting minister, whether the minister has recently received representations requesting the implementation of the decision taken by the previous administration to build a third bridge over the St. Lawrence river in the east end of Montreal?

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I will have to follow the same course as in respect to the other two questions and shall bring the matter to the attention of the minister upon his return for an early reply.

## IMMIGRATION

HUNGARIAN REFUGEES—REPORTED DECISION TO  
ADMIT ADDITIONAL 1,000

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate):** I wonder if I could ask the Acting Minister of Citizenship and Immigration whether the report in the press is correct that an additional 1,000 Hungarian refugees are to be brought to Canada at the expense of the government?

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Acting Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I would not care to comment on the accuracy of the figure in the absence of the minister. I can, however, confirm that a decision in principle was taken, but I would ask the hon. gentleman to wait until tomorrow or until the return of the minister for any comment on the actual number.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I wonder whether the acting minister would be good enough at the same time to ask the hon. lady whether she could inform the house how many of the Hungarian refugees in Canada who were seeking employment are still unemployed and being cared for by the department, and also how many of those who came here have returned?

**Mr. Fulton:** I shall be glad to bring that question to the attention of the minister, but  
[Mr. McMillan.]

in the meantime I think the house and the hon. gentleman will be glad to know that in both cases the number is satisfactorily small.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I thought it was, Mr. Speaker, and I am delighted.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

## NORTHERN AFFAIRS

## YUKON—STEPS TAKEN TO FIGHT FOREST FIRES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** I wish to address a question to the Acting Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources based on a newspaper report that caused my body temperature to rise as a conservation enthusiast. In view of newspaper reports to the effect that in the Yukon fires are being allowed to sweep through the country unchallenged, except where they threaten homes, would the minister inform the house whether this statement is correct? If so, would the minister inform the house whether consideration has been given to the use of armed forces personnel for firefighting purposes in order to limit as far as possible the destruction of our forest resources in the Yukon?

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Acting Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources I should like to reply to this question. Before doing so, however, I should like to say that the hon. member for Yukon has been in daily touch with the minister and the department in connection with these fires.

I can assure the hon. member for Kootenay West that not only has consideration been given to the possibility he suggests but that members of the armed forces and of the R.C.M.P. have been actively engaged in the firefighting effort, and have made a tremendous contribution in helping to limit as far as possible the destruction of our forest resources in the Yukon.

It should also be made perfectly clear that firefighting activities have not been limited to those fires which threaten federal housing. In such a vast area so sparsely populated it is, of course, not possible to fight every single fire. Consequently it has been necessary to concentrate efforts on those fires which threaten the most valuable forest resources and, of course, those which endanger human life and property.

Under the direction of the commissioner of the Yukon Territory great efforts are being made to bring the fires under control. In addition to the regular force of forestry officers and members of the armed forces and of the R.C.M.P., a good deal of equipment and extra