

Motions for Papers

POSTAGE RATES ON GIFT PARCELS

Mr. Hansell:

1. What is the rate of postage on gift parcels to (a) England; (b) other European countries?
2. Who sets the rates of postage for these parcels?
3. How do these rates compare with those charged by the United States of America for parcels to the same countries?

Mr. Bertrand (Laurier): Return tabled.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE—VETERANS

Mr. McKay:

How many veterans were in receipt of unemployment insurance in Canada during (a) 1947; (b) 1948?

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

Mr. Argue:

For a copy of all letters, telegrams and other communications exchanged between the government of Canada and the provincial governments from January 1, 1948 to date, concerning the construction of a trans-Canada highway.

Mr. MacKinnon: So far as we are concerned we are glad to have this order pass, but there appear to be confidential letters from some of the provinces, and I should like first to clear those letters with the provinces. In the meantime the order might pass.

Mr. Speaker: Carried with the reservation made by the minister.

INCOME TAX—RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANIES

Mr. Burton:

For a copy of all documents and correspondence exchanged during the past two years between the Saskatchewan government Department of Telephones and the Department of National Revenue regarding income tax returns by rural telephone companies.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING

Mr. Diefenbaker:

For a copy of the architect's plan for the national capital project together with all letters and communications relative to the area thereof and the estimated cost of (a) acquiring the necessary lands; (b) removal of buildings thereon and all other anticipated costs and expenditures.

Mr. St. Laurent: I believe there is no objection to the motion, but I should like to state what I understand from it, to see if that is what the hon. member has in mind. The architect's plan to which he refers is presumably the report of Mr. Greber, who is the consultant of the national capital planning committee. That report has not yet been approved by the national capital planning committee, nor has it been submitted to the government. It is expected shortly, and as soon as it is received it will be tabled.

[Mr. Caouette.]

The motion refers to the area of the national capital project. As far as the area is concerned, there may be some confusion between the area it was felt desirable to designate as the national capital area for the purpose of establishing a framework within which planning could be carried on, and the parcels of land which it may be thought desirable to acquire for government buildings, driveways, and so forth. The national capital area is a large region, and has significance for purposes of planning, but there is no thought that it would ever be acquired in totality by the federal government.

We would understand that the letters and communications sought are in relation to the definition of the national capital planning area, while the estimates of costs are in relation to the lands of which the project recommends the acquisition. If that is what the hon. member wishes to have tabled, I will see to it that the report is prepared at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, what the Prime Minister has stated represents generally the purpose of my request. I should like to ascertain, though, if I may, when the report of Mr. Greber may be expected. There is a great deal of interest in it. I understand that a committee has been sitting in Ottawa from time to time in connection with the matter, and it seems to me the time has come for the Prime Minister to make a statement to the house and to the country.

Mr. St. Laurent: I will communicate with the chairman of the national capital planning committee and tell him it is the desire of the members of the house to have this document at the earliest possible moment.

Motion agreed to.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Mr. Diefenbaker:

For a copy of all letters and communications containing representations or suggested terms made by the government of Canada since January 1, 1948, to the united nations or its committee on international rights relative to the international declaration or charter of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

FAR EASTERN COMMISSION

Mr. Green:

For a copy of any reports issued by the far eastern commission subsequent to the report of the secretary general for the period from February 26, 1946 to July 10, 1947.

Mr. Lapointe: The report referred to in this order was tabled by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) on Monday last.