

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

to indicate that the government has reached certain decisions respecting the highway. I should like to ask the minister whether any agreements have been made with the provinces and if so, will he table them in the house? Is he prepared now to make a statement about the highway?

**Hon. J. A. MacKinnon (Minister of Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, it is much too early to make any worth-while statement as to the progress being made. The Department of Mines and Resources is in communication with the ministers of highways in the various provinces as to the route of the highway through their particular provinces, and the kind of road to be constructed. I think that is as far as the statement went that I made yesterday to a delegation from Sault Ste. Marie. They were speaking to me principally on the matter of the route through that part of the province of Ontario. No agreements have yet been arrived at between the federal government and any of the provinces, although negotiations are actively under way.

**Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre):** I wish to ask a question supplementary to the one asked by the member for Vancouver South. Has any determination been made whether the route of the trans-Canada highway shall be by way of the Kicking Horse pass or the Yellowhead pass?

**Mr. MacKinnon:** No.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** Where are your provincial rights now?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I would ask the minister if it is intended to rely on the recommendations of the provinces.

**Mr. MacKinnon:** I would say it is.

**INQUIRIES OF THE MINISTRY****QUESTION AS TO PROGRESS TOWARD CANADA'S SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. H. Blackmore (Leithbridge):** I desire to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Will the minister make a statement to the house some time soon giving an account of the progress the government has made since January 1, 1946 toward making Canada more self-sufficient? Will he deal in some detail with the progress that was made in 1948, and that is being made in 1949?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** The question seems to suggest a very comprehensive study involving considerable research. I shall be glad to examine it. I think certain data bearing on the subject matter were tabled a few days

[Mr. Green.]

ago in a report on the administration of schedule III of the Emergency Exchange Conservation Act. I will see what can be prepared, and give my hon. friend an answer later.

**PRESS REPORT WITH REFERENCE TO USE OF TELEPHONE RECORDING DEVICE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. G. A. Cruickshank (Fraser Valley):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works, arising out of a press report. The press report reads: "Report Drew applied in vain for phone recording device". As I understand it, this device was to record—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** I have my question here. If this device is to be used to record what she says, may I have television to see what she looks like?

**QUESTION AS TO PLANK NO. 11 OF NEW LIBERAL PARTY PLATFORM**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the minister tell the house when the government intends to implement plank No. 11 in the new Liberal party platform?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** As the hon. gentleman knows very well, the policy of the government will be announced in due course.

**LABOUR CONDITIONS****UNEMPLOYMENT IN VANCOUVER**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Angus MacInnis (Vancouver East):** I intended to direct a question to the Minister of Labour, but as it perhaps involves government policy I will direct it to the Prime Minister. On Thursday last I asked the Minister of Labour if the government was giving consideration to assisting employable unemployed in the city of Vancouver. On the basis of a telegram received from the Vancouver district council of the Canadian Legion, I wish to repeat that question today. The telegram states that the unemployment situation in Vancouver constitutes an emergency comparable to the floods of last summer. Will the government assure the house that it will look into the situation with a view to rendering assistance?

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** I should not like to assure the house that the government will look into it with