

DIEF BREAKS THE NEWS

June 18 Election Set; Causeway To Be Built At Cost of \$140 Million

Date At Polls Loudly Cheered

By ALAN DONNELLY
OTTAWA (CP)—A long-awaited signal for a general election on Monday, June 18, was flashed Tuesday by Prime Minister Diefenbaker.

His announcement—starting gun for a two-month campaign battle—was loudly cheered by Commons members.

Liberal Leader Pearson and H. W. Hertzberg, CCF-New Democratic Party House leader, both welcomed the ending of weeks of uncertainty and declared their readiness to tackle the government at the polls.

Mr. Diefenbaker said the House will sit today and Thursday, if necessary, to deal with a few pieces of government legislation and vote interim supply to pay the government's bills for five months.

Then, he said, he will ask Governor-General Vanier to dissolve Canada's Parliament for an election June 18.

Disruption of the present Parliament, elected March 31, 1958, probably will come on Thursday with Mr. Diefenbaker flying to Quebec City where Gen. Vanier is in residence.

Disruption will be the signal for the official election machinery to swing into action. Cost of conducting the election—apart from party campaign expenses—is estimated at \$10,700,000.

The Liberal party already has 130 candidates named. Progressive Conservatives have 35 candidates formally picked. (Continued on Page 3 Col. 5)

what is expected to be one of the election issues—his charge of delaying tactics and obstruction by the opposition—has been made an early election inevitable.

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PRIME MINISTER

Two Years To Draw Plans, 6 Years To Build, Is Belief

By BEN WARD
OTTAWA (CP)—A \$105,000,000 causeway to link Prince Edward Island with the mainland of Canada was announced in the Commons Tuesday by Prime Minister Diefenbaker.

There was no mention of when work will start.

The nine-mile causeway, complete with navigation locks and a bridge, would run between Jourmain Island, N.B., and Borden Point, P.E.I., along the same stretch of the Northumberland Strait where an ice-breaking car and passenger ferry now operates.

Jourmain is a short distance north of Cape Tormentine where the P.E.I. ferry crosses the mainland and Borden is the ferry terminal on the island. P.E.I. has a population of 104,000.

Outside the Commons, officials said that engineers expect it will take two years to draw up the plans and specifications for the project. They estimate six years for the actual construction work.

A works department official stressed that so far only the feasibility studies have been completed. There was no decision, for instance, on where the necessary bridge and navigation opening would be built. It might even require two bridges.

The studies merely sought to determine whether the project was possible in view of the ice, wind, fisheries and shipping problems involved.

Late last year in a Charlottetown speech the prime minister referred to the road-and-rail causeway as one of the most difficult engineering problems ever tackled anywhere in the world.

“The government has now decided that a causeway will be built. . . .”

“The purpose of the studies undertaken has been to determine whether the project would be feasible from an engineering point of view and justified from an economic point of view.

“The answer in both cases is in the affirmative.”

Parts of his announcement were drowned out by the eruption of desk-thumping and applause from government benches.

The prime minister said an important part of the causeway study was the construction of a scale model of the area built by the National Research Council.

“The most economical crossing for road and rail traffic appears to be a combination causeway with navigation locks and a bridge,” he said.

Opposition Leader Pearson said all members of the Commons will welcome the announcement “on the eve of the election,” but wondered if “the cost of this causeway and other great national undertakings in the future will not have to be paid out of increasing deficits” in the affirmative.

“It is obvious that the causeway is an “urgent cause.”

THERE WAS NO HIDING PREMIER'S JOY AS BIG NEWS WAS REVEALED

Shaw Hails Announcement One Of Happiest Moments

By DON MACLEOD
Guardian-Patriot Staff Writer

“This is one of the happiest moments of my life,” said a jubilant Premier Walter R. Shaw yesterday after speaking by long distance telephone to Prime Minister Diefenbaker who confirmed that it had been announced in the House of Commons that the long-dreamed-of causeway between Prince Edward Island and mainland Canada is to become a reality.

Premier S.H.W. obviously flushed with excitement, at one stage of the conversation with the Prime Minister said “that’s all right, John—my blood pressure has gone up, John—” from a small province “I hope you will be blessed for many years.”

DEEPLY TRIFIED
At a press conference in his office, Premier Shaw said “I can’t tell you how deeply gratified I am about the announcement that a causeway is feasible and will be built. It is indeed a very outstanding event

in the history of Prince Edward Island and will usher in a new era of prosperity for the province.”

“I am also tremendously happy in view of the fact that, at various times I have said that the Conservatives were the ‘party of the causeway,’ and I sincerely believed that from the first.”

“As stated on a number of occasions, a project of this size is a tremendous undertaking, and I have always contended that any announcement as to its feasibility would depend on the completion of exhaustive studies which in some cases, involved the world’s best engineers.”

PC ACHIEVEMENTS
“It was a Conservative government that brought this province into Confederation, a Conservative government that began a ferry service between us and the mainland and it is a Conservative government that will bring us into complete accord with the terms of Confederation.”

“I am sure the people of Prince Edward Island share with me this deep sense of gratitude and happiness over this day’s announcement.”

ederation through this causeway project.

“The government of Canada, through the Prime Minister, has supported my faith in this project and after tremendous study they have declared a causeway feasible and it will be built. It is my answer to our statement when we came into power that we were the ‘party of the causeway’ and that we would see it built if declared feasible by top engineers.”

“Now we can go forward in the sure and certain conviction that we’ll finally have a causeway connecting us with the mainland, providing regular, year-round transportation.

NEVER LOST FAITH
“I find it difficult to express how I feel about the announcement and the close collaboration we had with the federal government in promoting the project. I never lost faith in it. I had faith in the Prime Minister—faith that if it were feasible, he would put it through. Well, it’s feasible and economically sound and the government of Canada will bring us into complete accord with the terms of Confederation.”

“I am sure the people of Prince Edward Island share with me this deep sense of gratitude and happiness over this day’s announcement.”

Secret Satellite Launched By U.S.

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—The U.S. Air Force launched a satellite from Vandenberg Air Force missile base Tuesday — one so secret it wouldn’t even give its time of launch.

The complete air force statement said: “A satellite employing a Thor-Agena B booster combination was launched today by the French West German combine at Vandenberg Air Force Base.”

POSITION CLEAR
French sources said Spak made his position clear. He said that as long as Britain was outside the Common Market, Belgium would not sign a treaty on political union if it contained anything that would offend the Belgian and Dutch which was put under pressure behind Brax’s application for Common Market membership. There is

Liberal MP Suggested Causeway First in '56

Prime Minister Diefenbaker’s announcement Tuesday that the Newfoundland Strait Causeway “will be built . . . at a cost of \$100 million, climaxing six years and almost three months of anxious, sometimes hopeful waiting since the ambitious project was first proposed.

It was on the afternoon of January 30, 1956 that Neil A. Matheson then a Liberal member of parliament for Queens, proposed the causeway should be built. “Join Canada to Prince Edward Island . . . and transfer it into terms of development and modern thinking, the pledge of Confederation to provide continuous communication between Prince Edward Island and the mainland.”

Ideal most all new proposals, the project met with some early criticism even from Islanders, although support for the modern approach to the dream of constant communication with Canada has overshadowed the opposition.

SUPPORT RALLIED
But Island support rallied quickly as the associated boards of trade moved to market backing for the proposal, which most Islanders saw as a major project to meet the way to new and hitherto undreamed-of possibilities for provincial development.

Many saw in the proposal the key to tourist industry expansion far beyond anything approached in the past.

Robert Winters, then works minister said a cabinet spokesman for the island as well as his native Nova Scotia, observed that had tremendous tourist attraction potential.

Comment from the mainland on the announcement a causeway would be built was enthusiastic.

Premier Stanfield of Nova Scotia suggested the causeway will benefit Nova Scotia as well as Prince Edward Island.

“He said ‘his plans are definite for building. It tends to strengthen the whole area, and Prince Edward Island in particular.’”

Premier Stanfield said Nova Scotia probably will benefit from both the building of the causeway and its presence at construction. He described it as an excellent thing both “for those who live on the island and those who want to do business there.”

ANALYSIS OF COST
Initial efforts were made to determine the cost of a full scale survey and the firm of Price Waterhouse and Company were engaged to do a financial and economic analysis at that time.

A top rank economic analyst said the government had told an Island MP as early as 1954 that a causeway would be built. (Continued on Page 3 Col. 7)

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Jubilant Islanders Hail Announcement

Jubilant Islanders in and out of politics hailed Prime Minister Diefenbaker’s sudden and unexpected announcement Tuesday that Prince Edward Island’s Causeway will be built.

Comments ranged from an optimistic “The Island tourist business will double overnight” to “the most sensational event in the history of the province.”

Provincial Secretary J. David Stewart foresaw a “new era” in tourism while Charlottetown Mayor A. Walden Gaudet called it “a forward move in the development and progress of the province.”

Here are the opinions of prominent Islanders reached last night:

NEIL A. MATHESON
“After the passage of the years it is a real pleasure to me to see this dream finally come true,” Neil A. Matheson, former MP for Queens, the man responsible for starting the idea, said. The first suggestion for the causeway came from Mr. Matheson in the House of Commons in 1956.

J. DAVID STEWART
“This will put us on the main

highways to such centres as Montreal, Boston and New York.” J. David Stewart, municipal councillor for St. John’s, said all members of the Commons will welcome the announcement “on the eve of the election,” but wondered if “the cost of this causeway and other great national undertakings in the future will not have to be paid out of increasing deficits” in the affirmative.

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Parliament At A Glance

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
TUESDAY, April 17, 1962
Prime Minister Diefenbaker announced he will dissolve the 24th Parliament shortly for a federal general election June 18.

Mr. Diefenbaker reported the government intends to build the Prince Edward Island causeway, a \$105,000,000 job.

The CCF-NDP group staged another blockade of divers’ bills and drew a scathing attack from Robert McCleave (PC—Halifax).

WEDNESDAY, April 18
The Commons meets at 2:30 p.m. to debate government legislation. The Senate meets at 3 p.m.

Hot Debate In Britain On Potato Regulation

LONDON (Reuters) — The House of Commons remained in session until the early hours of today debating a serious potato regulation that has come under fire because of a serious potato shortage.

The regulation was proposed to restrict the expansion of potato crops because of a serious potato shortage on the market in recent years.

However, this year frosts have delayed the maturing of the early potato crop and an early potato shortage is expected by farmers in about two or three weeks time.

Opposition Labor MPs contended that the government should have foreseen that had weather would result in a poor crop and arranged for imports in time.

The shortage has touched off soaring prices with new potatoes selling for about twice their normal price at this time.

The sitting adjourned without French sources saying any action on the regulation.

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POSITION CLEAR
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some Frenchmen who believe Brussels and The Hague are acting at Britain’s behest.

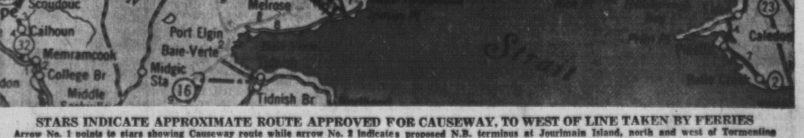
The move appeared to mean that neither Belgium nor The Netherlands, which have strong trade ties with Britain, intend to be subsumed in a continental bloc dominated by the France of President de Gaulle or by a French-West German combine.

All six ministers agreed that any treaty on political union should be submitted to London for comment.

Spak and Luns’ position was clarified by the Western European political unity, and the six ministers separated without issuing a communique or fixing a definite date for their next meeting.

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STARS INDICATE APPROXIMATE ROUTE APPROVED FOR CAUSEWAY, TO WEST OF LINE TAKEN BY FERRIES

Arrow No. 1 points to stars showing Causeway route while arrow No. 3 indicates proposed N.S. terminus at Jourmain Island, north and west of Tormentine