

izes U.S. participation in the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway in co-operation with Canada, at an estimated cost of 105 million dollars to the U.S. and which ended a two-decade battle to open the Great Lakes ports of the Middlewest to Atlantic shipping. Looking on are senate com-

committee. The new law authorizes the U.S. to join Canada in building the canals and locks necessary to provide a continuous 27-foot navigation channel through the St. Lawrence river which links Lake Ontario with the Gulf of St. Lawrence. —(Central Press Canadian).

## LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE TO MEET

# Road Reports Slated Monday

TORONTO (CP)—Round two of Ontario's highways department investigation opens Monday and opposition members of the Ontario legislature's select committee are expected to come out fighting.

## Lake Vessel Quells Fire In Car Cargo

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The Great Lakes freighter Mataafa arrived here safely under her own power early today after successfully fighting a fire in a cargo hold on Lake Erie Friday.

None of the 32 crew members of the 429-foot vessel was injured in the fire, which forced the ship to heave to off Long Point, Ont., about 65 miles northwest of here.

Capt. Emory Mossman said his ship was not damaged by the flames, but that eight of 361 new automobiles in the cargo were damaged by water and steam.

Mossman said a complete damage report will be made later by the owners of the freighter, the Nicholson Transit Co., of Buffalo.

### CAUSE UNCERTAIN

The cause of the fire has not been determined, but an official of the company said that the fire was believed to have started with a short-circuit in one of the automobiles.

The Mataafa docked here shortly after 12:30 a.m., EDT. It was escorted by two 40-foot United States coast guard cutters, one from Buffalo and the other from Erie, Pa.

Capt. Orwin Peterson of Chicago, commander of an American Airlines plane en route from Detroit to Rochester, N.Y., was the first to report the ship's plight.

He radioed the air traffic control centre in Cleveland when he noticed an abnormal amount of smoke coming from the Mataafa when he passed overhead Friday afternoon.

Coast guard units were ordered to the scene from Buffalo and Erie, and other were ordered to stand by in Cleveland.

Their attack on the alleged irregularities within the department was fired last week by the laying of conspiracy charges against 11 men and three contracting companies.

However, the Progressive Conservative government is due to make the first move Monday; the committee will receive the reports of provincial auditor Harvey Cotnam and J. D. Woods and Gordon Co. Ltd., Toronto management consultants appointed by Premier Frost to investigate the department.

Chairman Kelso Roberts (PC—Toronto St. Patrick) said the committee would sit for three days.

Departmental officials are expected to testify.

The committee met initially April 14 and adjourned after a day-long hearing to May 17.

Albert Wren (Lib.-Lab.—Kenora) last month drew out the first evidence of irregularities heard by the committee from C. A. Robins, chief engineer of maintenance for the department, who told of 70 cases of payroll and other irregularities in the maintenance division at the Lakehead during the last three years.

Developments in the last two weeks added more fuel to the opposition's fire.

Premier Frost announced the appointment of J. D. Millar, deputy highways minister since 1943, as deputy minister of public works. He was succeeded by Mebourne A. Elson, 44-year-old mining engineer.

### ASKS RESIGNATION

Opposition Leader Farquhar Oliver branded the move a demotion for Mr. Millar, and, at a meeting of the Toronto Liberal Businessmen's Association Tuesday, he called for the resignation of Highways Minister Doucett.

Donald C. MacDonald, Ontario CCF leader, sent a letter to Mr. Frost asking for a royal commission inquiry into the department's activities.

Mr. Wren said he had uncovered other irregularities on his own and would testify under oath. (Continued on Page 17, Column 2)

## Seattle Area Shaken by Strong Quake

SEATTLE (AP) — A strong earthquake, which set telephone poles to swaying and buildings quivering, shook this city at 5:02 a.m. PST (9:02 a.m. EDT) today.

The tremor was felt in all sections of the city.

There were no immediate reports of damage.

The Washington state patrol said its officers reported the quake was felt as far south as Olympia, some 65 miles from here.

Seattle police said they had received reports from all parts of this city of 550,000 persons, although there had been no reports of damage or injuries.

Police, newspaper and radio switchboards were jammed with calls from persons awakened by the jolt, strongest felt here since the big quake of April, 1949.

Charles Geer of the Associated Press staff said the shock was so strong it knocked him out of bed.

## Atikokan Boy Reported Missing

Provincial police are trying to locate Larry Newell Payton, 12, who left Atikokan about 12.45 p.m. Friday and was last seen on the Atikokan highway about 2 p.m. the same day. It is believed the boy is on his way to an aunt in Toronto. The boy is described as thin and fair-haired, and was wearing blue jeans, fawn colored jacket, rubber boots and T-shirt.

Barbara Ma month-old ba rived "four d old friends liv The newspa as to the Ma but Star staff quoted Mrs. M day "she had band so conc anonymous le "Rocky ha crank letters upset easily," quoted as sa first time he one in which threatened. I to death."

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"CHOP SOME HEADS OFF"

# Postal Department

