

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

It is hoped to follow that with the four financial bills. At the present time it would look as though there would be no prospect of reaching the Fisheries items I have mentioned before Thursday of next week, it being assumed that on Monday and Tuesday next week there probably will be a debate on a motion in respect of a constitutional committee.

**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

## SCOPE AND EFFECT OF AUSTERITY PROGRAM

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the criticism levelled at the government by a former prime minister, Mr. Pearson, suggesting that the austerity program now being followed may do irreparable damage particularly to such institutions as the National Film Board, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he is prepared to review the across-the-board application of this policy and reconsider its effect on such institutions as are causing special concern to Mr. Pearson?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Well, Mr. Speaker, first of all it is not an across-the-board expenditure cut. The guidelines, as the hon. member knows, made certain exceptions and also made certain provisions for increases in other departments. The suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition, if applied to the Film Board, would certainly apply to almost every department and there would be no reduction in expenditures of the federal government. There would also be no surplus and we would be blamed for not combating inflation. The opposition should take a clear position on whether they want the government to spend more, or less. If they want us to spend more they should state that quite clearly and we will thank them for the mandate.

INFLATION—INCREASE IN RATES BY  
B.C. HYDRO

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance having in mind his efforts to restrain inflation in Canada by getting agreements from various industries to refrain from rate increases at this time. Would he consider taking similar action in British Columbia where B.C. Hydro has announced a 15 to 20 per cent rate increase, which is an inflationary measure?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Well, Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier I do not [Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

think I can approach everybody in Canada who increases the price on anything. What the government has indicated is its support for the efforts being made by the Prices and Incomes Commission, which in addition to consulting with industry, business and labour has been consulting with the federal and provincial governments with a view to having general restraints on a voluntary basis in the country.

**POWER**

## MINAS BASIN—PUBLICATION OF STUDY

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In light of the recent press statement concerning Minas Basin tidal power, may I ask the minister when we will receive this most important study and whether the government has decided yet whether or not it will be made public once received? It has been over a year now since the study was completed.

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I might answer the latter half of the question first. No decision has yet been made concerning publication. I am instructed the report will be made available soon. I am not sure whether that is the "soon" of yesterday or of other days, but in any event that is the information I have.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Could the minister say whether it is being held up because of the translation or because of governmental or departmental studies?

**Mr. Greene:** It is held up within the administrative structure of government but whether because of translation or otherwise I have not been informed. I will inform myself and if that is the particular reason I will instruct the hon. member accordingly.

[Translation]

**IMMIGRATION**DISCUSSION BETWEEN OTTAWA AND QUEBEC  
RESPECTING FRENCH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS  
DESIRING TO MOVE TO ALBERTA

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Considering the great number of French-speaking immigrants to Quebec who apparently wish to settle in another province, could the minister tell us whether he discussed that