

*Inquiries of the Ministry***GRAIN**

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Fraser Valley East has been recognized for a supplementary.

**Mr. Jerry Pringle (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Are we, then, to understand that the International River Improvements Act of 1955 does not supersede any agreements made prior to that time?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I regret to suggest to the hon. member that he is inviting an expression of opinion of the minister. I would not think the question is acceptable. The hon. member for Kooteney West on a supplementary.

**Mr. Harding:** Mr. Speaker, the information we have had from the Secretary of State for External Affairs is that a permit would have to be sought by Seattle City Light. My supplementary question is: Has there been any change in this procedure? If not, what type of investigation will the federal government initiate prior to making a decision on the flooding of the Skagit Valley?

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to give a legal opinion as to what is required, but it appears to me that after the expiry of some 18 years—

**Some hon. Members:** Twenty-eight years.

**Mr. Greene:** —28 years, excuse me, and the change in the public ethic as to whether a commercial sale of this nature would be more advantageous than the preservation of the natural resource, we should endeavour to have a new public hearing, and I am attempting to find a manner of so doing.

[Later:]

**Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question supplementary to earlier questions regarding the Skagit Valley. Has the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources instructed or requested the Canadian section of the International Joint Commission to reopen its 1941 decision on the Skagit Valley?

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, the avenue of achieving a review and a new hearing is being explored, as well as other possibilities which might render an even more expeditious hearing possible.

**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT MEETINGS**

**Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration who is responsible to the House for the Canadian Wheat Board. Will the minister take the first opportunity under motions to give the House a full report on the meetings that were held recently at Geneva to make the International Grains Arrangement a more workable instrument? More specifically, will he indicate who represented Canada at these talks and what country or countries were mainly opposing the Canadian formula?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think a statement on motions would be appropriate at this stage. These meetings were preliminary in their nature, with a view to exploring whether negotiations could go forward on a sound basis. Canada was represented by senior officials, including a commissioner of the Wheat Board.

**INDIAN AFFAIRS****CLAIMS COMMISSION—INCLUSION OF ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS IN TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Inasmuch as the terms of reference of the Indian Claims Commissioner do not include a review of aboriginal and treaty rights, and because of the growing concern over these matters on the part of Canadians of Indian ancestry, will the government revise the terms of reference so that this fundamental issue might be reviewed?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, this question, which has already been raised on several occasions, has been studied by the government.

The Indian Claims Commissioner's office comes under the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister. I think it would be untimely to change the terms of reference now.

[English]

**Mr. Dinsdale:** May I address a similar question to the Prime Minister, since this is his