

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): There is no question of any decision on either diversion or export of water, as the hon. member mentioned in his question, and as has been mentioned in previous questions. There is co-ordinated activity between the government of Canada and the government of Ontario in the matter of studying the water available in the northern area of Ontario, studies which are wide in scope and which may take another year to complete. They may be the base of some future action at some future time but are certainly not determining action at this time. I may add that the studies were originally inspired by a recommendation on the International Joint Commission at a time when the water in the Great Lakes was very low.

Mr. B. Keith Penner (Thunder Bay): I have a supplementary question. Will the minister responsible for energy and water resources undertake to table in this house a report which is entitled "A Proposed Water Diversion Program out of North Western Ontario into Lake Superior" dated June 25, 1964, and six progress reports which have followed it?

Mr. Lang: I will give consideration to this request. The reports are of an interim nature and I will certainly look at the question of whether it would be appropriate to table them at this stage.

Mr. Aiken: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister could answer the specific question I asked as to whether there has been any change in the situation since the matter was raised in the Committee on Resources earlier this year, or whether this is a continuation of the policy then explained and which has been carried out since 1964?

Mr. Lang: I am not sure of the date referred to by the hon. member, but I do not know of any change made recently.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): I have a question for the Prime Minister. May I ask the right hon. gentleman, in view of the difficulties experienced by the government in this chamber yesterday afternoon, whether he is giving consideration to the appointment of a new house leader?

An hon. Member: Where were you?

[Mr. Aiken.]

TRANSPORT**NEWFOUNDLAND—EMBARGO AFFECTING
LABRADOR CITY-WABUSH AREA**

Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): My question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that some 2,000 private automobiles at Wabush and Labrador city are inoperable because there is no gasoline, and stocks of domestic fuel are depleted at a time when these towns are experiencing unseasonably low temperatures, will the minister advise what action his department is taking with regard to the removal of a rail embargo on gasoline and fuel oils?

Hon. Donald Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I should make it clear that the embargo referred to by the hon. member is imposed by union representatives who are refusing to load such cargo, except under restrictions which make it impossible for the railway to complete deliveries. As of this morning the railways indicated to me that they are prepared to carry fuel into the area, provided they get agreement with the unions involved.

Secondly, I have asked the Canadian Transport Commission to send a representative into all four areas to check on the situation.

Thirdly, I am advised that the discussion with regard to settlement of the strike is progressing favourably, and hopefully it will be over within a very short time.

INCOME TAX**RETURN OF REFUNDS**

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Arising from the assurances given by the minister to this house on June 6 to the effect that there is no delay in processing income tax returns, and in view of the fact that some 700,000 returns have still to be processed, what special efforts will now be made in the organization of the minister's department to ensure that those who are entitled to refunds receive them before Christmas?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, we have already processed 200,000—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as asked is not in order and should be placed on the order paper.