

*Inquiries of the Ministry***NATIONAL DEFENCE****U.S. CONCERN RESPECTING CANADIAN ANTI-SUBMARINE CAPABILITY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. Does the presence in Ottawa today of so many senior officers of the United States navy indicate the grave and understandable concern of the United States regarding the increasing inability of the Canadian navy to carry out its continental anti-submarine defence responsibilities?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member will recognize that the question is not acceptable in that form.

OLD AGE SECURITY**INCOME SUPPLEMENT—GRATUITY TO RETIRED N.S. COAL MINERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. I sent him notice, albeit short, when I came into the house. For the purpose of clarification will the minister advise whether the small gratuity received by retired Nova Scotia coal miners from the Dominion Coal Company and its subsidiaries will be considered as income in calculating the amount that will be payable under the guaranteed income supplement?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the amount of the guaranteed income supplement is a subject for determination by the Department of National Health and Welfare. I will take the hon. member's question as notice and supply him with an answer this afternoon.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact the Department of National Health and Welfare has advised me that this is the responsibility of the Department of National Revenue I hope the minister will be able to provide an answer.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**BRITISH COLUMBIA—PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF HARBOUR COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport [Mr. Pickersgill.]

whether he has any knowledge of a bill introduced by the government of British Columbia yesterday in the legislature seeking to set up a provincial harbour commission to engage in operating, maintaining and developing harbours, particularly in the lower mainland? If so, will the minister consider that bill in relation to the injury it could cause to the potential development of northern ports?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is making representations and suggestions to the minister, and I do not think this is a proper question.

Mr. Howard: I did not intend to do that, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I could simply ask the minister whether he has any knowledge of such a bill being introduced and what steps he is taking in this regard.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I learned through the press and as the result of a report I received from the port manager of the port of Vancouver that a bill with 36 clauses purporting to set up a B.C. harbours board was introduced yesterday in the British Columbia legislature by the attorney general. I have also been made aware of certain allegations by the attorney general which bear no relation so far as I can discern to the facts. He has apparently suggested that the B.C. government must take this action because the federal government is not carrying out its responsibility in the port of Vancouver. That statement is untrue and I resent it very much. There are certain functions provincial governments have to perform under the constitution which should occupy the full time of provincial governments.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps I should comment *ex post facto* that both the question and answer appear to be out of order. Let me suggest to hon. members that questions relating to provincial legislation should not be asked at this time. If hon. members adopt the custom or get into the habit of referring from day to day to legislation introduced in provincial parliaments this might take up most of the time allotted for questions. I recognize the hon. member for Trois-Rivières.

Mr. Howard: May I be permitted to ask one small supplementary question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have recognized the hon. member for Trois-Rivières.