

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, what we indicated in the speech from the throne will be carried out. As the hon. member knows, the volume of business before the house now denies my allocating any time in the future for the consideration of this particular matter. It is important. We hope that we will get around to it very shortly, but I can say only that that depends on the co-operation of all hon. members in the implementation of the program which is before the house.

(Translation):

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture or, in his absence, to one of his parliamentary secretaries.

Is the announced construction of grain elevators to serve 40 Quebec ridings at a cost of \$3 million to be the only such project for eastern Canada and for the benefit of farmers?

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will be informed of the extraordinary legislation which will be announced by the minister himself in due course.

Mr. Dumont: I hope it will not take ten years.

Mr. Pigeon: No. You now have a progressive government.

(Text):

REPORTED INTENTION TO CURTAIL RECORD OF PRODUCTION PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lucien Lamoureux (Stormont): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture or to his parliamentary secretary. In view of current reports that the government plans to curtail the record of production testing program for dairy cattle, can the minister tell the house whether he is planning to limit or abolish this very essential service?

Mr. W. H. Jorgenson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I think the minister would wish to reply to that question. He will be back in the house tomorrow.

POWER

COLUMBIA RIVER—INQUIRY AS TO MEETINGS WITH B.C. PREMIER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, in order to satisfy our insatiable

curiosity and to bring us up to date, I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Justice. Has he any further information to give the house with respect to meetings with Premier Bennett of British Columbia in connection with the Columbia development, or are any meetings proposed?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, there have been no meetings with Premier Bennett since this question was last asked in the house, and none has been arranged.

CIVIL DEFENCE

REPORTED CONVERSION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS INTO FALL-OUT SHELTERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. Walker (York Centre): Thank you, Mr. Speaker; this is the most exercise I have had since before we adjourned. I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. I asked this question in December of the Prime Minister, and the suggestion was that we wait till the minister returned. Is the government pushing ahead with an estimated \$1 billion program of converting over 4,000 public buildings into community fall-out shelters, as has been reported by the minister to the press?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the minister never at any time reported any such thing to the press. I saw a press report mentioning some figure of \$1 billion and so forth which I was very surprised to see. When the dominion-provincial conference on emergency measures was held here some few weeks before Christmas we had considerable discussion about the matter of providing fall-out shelters. We had particularly a discussion on the amount of work which had been done in surveying the capability of existing buildings as to their capability of providing fall-out protection. I refer particularly to government buildings including, dominion, provincial and in some cases municipal buildings. At that time I stated that as far as we were concerned this survey was fairly well completed, that I hoped the provinces and municipalities would complete their buildings, and that we were having estimates made as to what the cost would be of improving the fall-out capabilities of these buildings. That is as far as I went.