

Inquiries of the Ministry

on an article appearing in the *Chronicle-Herald*. As pointed out in that newspaper article this development is only in the planning stage. The department will co-operate with the Nova Scotia power commission to see that adequate and proper provision is made to ensure the protection of the fish populations in the rivers and lakes in that area.

STATEMENT ON NEW NORTH PACIFIC
FUR SEAL AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. Watson MacNaught (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Fisheries): While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I might answer two questions that were asked the department yesterday. The hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich asked if I would tell the house the terms of the new north Pacific fur seal agreement which was signed in Washington on Saturday last.

The convention among Canada, the United States, Japan and the U.S.S.R., signed in Washington on February 9, will in due course be submitted to parliament for ratification. Briefly, the convention provides, among other things, for: (a) the establishment of a north Pacific fur seal commission of four members, one from each of the signatories; (b) a six-year co-operative research program; (c) the prohibition of pelagic sealing except to a specified extent for research purposes; and (d) a sharing of the land kill so that Canada and Japan receive each year from the U.S.S.R. and the United States 15 per cent of the seal skins taken on the rookery islands by the two latter countries. The islands in question are: Pribilof islands owned by the United States, and the Commander and Robben islands under the control of the U.S.S.R.

The hon. member further stated that he was particularly anxious to know whether the Canadian quota remained the same as in pre-war years. Canada's annual share of the sealskins from the rookery islands is the same as in the pre-war or 1911 convention, namely 15 per cent from the Pribilof islands and 15 per cent each from the Commander and Robben islands. Since 1942, however, Canada under the provisional fur seal agreement with the United States received 20 per cent of the sealskins annually from the Pribilof islands. Until abrogation by Japan in 1941 of the 1911 convention Canada was entitled to 15 per cent of the annual take from Robben island; under the 1911 treaty Canada was to receive a share of 15 per cent from the Commander islands, but no returns were received from the U.S.S.R. from 1924 onwards.

[Mr. MacNaught.]

BRITISH COLUMBIA—STATEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT
WORK AT SITE OF MORAN DAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. Watson MacNaught (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Fisheries): Yesterday the hon. member for New Westminster asked this question:

In view of press reports that there is tremendous development work going on around the site of the proposed Moran dam, 20 miles from Lillooet, would the minister make a statement regarding this matter?

The Department of Fisheries has been and is in close contact with the proposed construction of the Moran dam. The department's senior officers, engineers and biologists have reviewed the proposed construction in an effort to determine the effects it would have on the passage of the valuable salmon resources of the Fraser river and its watershed. It is understood that the promoters of the Moran dam project have been making test borings in the area where the proposed dam might be built.

Information in the department indicates that there is no "tremendous development work" going on around the proposed site. The officials of the department are continuing to keep in close touch with the situation and are meeting regularly with the officials of the company promoting the Moran dam project.

SOCKEYE SALMON CONVENTION—REQUEST FOR
TABLING OF COPY OF PROTOCOL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. R. Pearkes (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Fisheries. Will he table a copy of the protocol which was referred to in the resolution presented yesterday by the Minister of Finance?

Mr. J. Watson MacNaught (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I will look into the procedure in relation thereto, and if it is possible to table the protocol in question it will be tabled.

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

INQUIRY RESPECTING STUDY OF REDISTRIBUTION
BY COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State. In view of the renewed interest in the matter of redistribution, which has arisen because of the recent census release showing a wide disparity in the population figures of the various federal constituencies in this country, will