

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

that early in October he will be in a position, with the members of the commission, to make that interim report.

That being so, my hon. friend will understand that it is impossible to say what action will be taken because the report will not be available, even with the greatest diligence on the part of the members of the commission, before that date and may even be a month later.

**Mr. Argue:** I appreciate the Prime Minister's report to the house. Am I to take it from his report that any further consideration of the development of the Montreal market for western oil will be delayed or will wait until after this very important report has been received?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** In so far as the Montreal market is concerned, private interests are giving a great deal of attention to that matter. Naturally it is being considered also by the government. When I say that I do not want to give any indication that what is being considered will be answered in the affirmative, but simply that the matter is receiving consideration, and the report from the royal commission no doubt will be helpful in the determination of that and other problems.

**FISHERIES**

## NEWFOUNDLAND—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION ON BAIT SHORTAGE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. R. Tucker (Trinity-Conception):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the present shortage of bait in Newfoundland for Newfoundland fishermen, I would be grateful if the minister would advise whether or not his department has taken any steps to relieve the situation.

**Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries):** I am a little confused by the situation, not by the question, since the hon. member for St. John's East gave me notice of his intention to ask an identical question, and the hon. member for Trinity-Conception has asked it. This, however, indicates the interest of the people of Newfoundland in the Newfoundland fisheries, and their concern with the bait shortage.

This is something of which my department is very much aware, and the difficulty arises because of the failure of the squid fishery this year. I might say that during last winter the department's bait service froze more herring bait than ever before, but these stocks are now almost exhausted and a fairly critical situation has arisen.

The department, however, has embarked on a serious attempt to relieve the situation. For example, we have two helicopters under

charter to the department scouting for squid. I am happy to say that a certain amount of squid has just now been obtained, about 30,000 pounds, and it will be delivered very shortly to the areas where it is most urgently needed. We hope to augment this supply. In addition we have obtained 150,000 pounds of herring in the Yarmouth area, which will be delivered to the bait depots in Newfoundland as quickly as we can get suitable transportation for it. For the time being we have temporarily suspended the sale of bait to foreign fishing vessels, and we have also done a number of other things which I do not think I should take up the time of the house by enumerating, but if any hon. member is especially concerned and would be interested in securing more details I would be happy to give them to him privately.

**FRUIT**

## NIAGARA PENINSULA—DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS CHERRIES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture, or in his absence to the minister in charge. Today the *Toronto Globe and Mail* reports that the Niagara peninsula growers have 1,000 tons of surplus cherries as a result, according to the secretary of the marketing board, of a recent large volume of imports at low prices. Does the government intend to give any help to these fruit growers?

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** I shall bring this question to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture on his return.

(Translation):

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**

## QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEES IN BANKRUPTCY

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Lucien Cardin (Richelieu-Vercheres):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice. Has the minister received from members of the Richelieu Bar Association, a request for the establishment of a bankruptcy registry and a bankruptcy court at the seats of the judicial districts of Richelieu, Beauharnois, d'Iberville and St. Hyacinthe? If so, may we hope that such bankruptcy registries and bankruptcy courts will be established shortly?

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I just received notice of this question. I shall look into the matter and give the hon. member an answer tomorrow.