

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Resources. I apologize for my repetitious use of the words "in view" occasioned by my usual desire for procedural exactitude.

In view of the release given to the press by the Minister of Public Works on December 5, 1958 to the effect in part—

Steps are to be taken at once to complete an agreement with the United States which will make possible the co-operative development of the river based on co-ordinated operations but retaining Canadian ownership and control of projects built on the river in Canada.

—and in view of the repeated statements by the premier of British Columbia with respect to this Columbia river development, and in view of the tremendous importance of this question to the people of British Columbia, will the minister inform the house of the progress to date with respect to agreement between Canada and the United States on this important question?

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):** I wish to thank the hon. member for Kootenay West for having given me notice of this question. In reply I should like to say that in the latter part of last year the Canadian government concluded that so far as it could see the development of the Columbia basin which offered the best hope of more and cheaper power for Canada and the United States would be one resulting from a co-operative development of that basin.

Accordingly, as stated on December 5, 1958, steps were immediately taken toward negotiation of an agreement with the United States for the co-operative development of the water of the Columbia river. Discussions are now taking place between United States and Canadian officials with a view to expediting this matter. As negotiations are in train, it would not seem proper to say anything further about them at this time. In the meantime, officials from my department are discussing technical engineering aspects of the Columbia river development with officials of the British Columbia government.

(Translation):

**DOMINION—PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**

INQUIRY AS TO CALLING OF CONFERENCE  
ON FISCAL MATTERS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Prime Minister. Could he state whether he intends to call a conference on fiscal relations with the provinces during the present session of Parliament, or before the end of the current year 1959?

(Text):

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** I have nothing to say in that regard at the moment except that on January 15 I directed a letter to the premiers of the various provinces, which I might be allowed to read:

The speech being read by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of parliament today contains two paragraphs which are of direct interest to provincial governments. I am therefore writing to advise you of them and to ask your co-operation in regard to the proposal in the second. They are as follows:

"My government will recommend an amendment to the Federal-Provincial Tax Sharing Arrangements Act to extend for another year the increase made last year in the provincial share of personal income tax revenue.

My government proposes that the entire subject of financial relations between the dominion and the provinces shall receive continued active co-operative study. All provincial governments are being asked to agree to the use, for this purpose, of the machinery of the existing federal-provincial continuing committee on fiscal and economic matters working under the direction of a committee consisting of the Minister of Finance and all provincial treasurers."

The Minister of Finance will communicate with your minister of finance with a view to arranging a meeting of the proposed committee of ministers.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** That means there will be no conference.

**LIVESTOCK**

RABIES—INQUIRY AS TO CONTROL AND  
COMPENSATION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South):** I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture what steps his department is taking to curtail the increasing spread of rabies disease, and if he would consider seriously paying compensation for those animals lost. In my riding this dread disease has reached alarming proportions, and the number of cases is very serious.

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, all reported suspected cases of rabies are fully investigated. Exposed animals are quarantined, and where human exposure has taken place medical authorities are immediately advised and given full details. All diagnostic work in connection with animal rabies is handled by the department's animal diseases research institute laboratories. Dog control problems are discussed with municipal authorities, who are urged to establish appropriate control measures. In infected areas free rabies vaccination clinics are held for all pets. Since April 1, 1958, 17 counties of Ontario have been covered by 333 free rabies vaccination clinics at which 92,000 dogs and cats have been vaccinated.