

Inquiries of the Ministry

been an improvement in the situation in the last day or so with the return of the representatives of the European common market. Perhaps in this case it will be the dark hour before the dawn. I hope the minister will be able to report on the dawn when he gets back next week.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Does the answer of the Prime Minister indicate a roseate hope that there will be a dawn?

Mr. Pearson: I certainly hope there will be a dawn and a very rosy dawn. I had better not commit myself until I see what is happening to the clouds.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Prime Minister disclose now whether there have been any discussions with Prime Minister Wilson of Great Britain concerning the export of western grain and the price of that grain, in relationship to Britain joining the European common market?

Mr. Pearson: All these matters were discussed at the recent United Kingdom-Canadian ministerial conference in London.

Mr. Woolliams: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Prime Minister prepared to tell us what discussions took place in that regard, and what was the position of the Canadian government?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Trade and Commerce made a report on the matter. I have nothing to add to what he said at that time, and certainly not until the negotiations are complete.

POWER**COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY—FURTHER COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION IN VIEW OF EXCESSIVE COSTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in very appropriate circumstances. In view of the definite reports that expenditures under the Columbia river treaty will exceed the amount received by the government of British Columbia by over \$200 million, will the minister consider referring this treaty to the appropriate committee so it can be examined again and the committee can hear officials as well as persons who would like to make representations?

[Mr. Pearson.]

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): This matter has now become the exclusive responsibility of the government of British Columbia. Only last week I was assured that that government could take care of the situation without help from anybody. I would add that because of the fact that some of these dams will be completed earlier than the date foreseen in the agreement, there will be added benefits which will help compensate for some of the increased costs.

Mr. Herridge: May I ask a supplementary question. Does the minister realize that this treaty was strongly recommended to the committee by the Secretary of State for External Affairs?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): By the whole house.

FINANCE**REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF TAX ON TELEVISION SETS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): I have a question for the Minister of Finance which arises out of a report that the television industry in Canada is suffering from a near depression because of the luxury tax on colour television sets. This tax is also having an effect on the market for black and white sets. It has been recommended by the Carter commission that this tax should be removed, and there would be an opportunity for the minister to remove it at an early date.

An hon. Member: You would look good on colour T.V.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): I have heard these representations not only from the hon. gentleman but from others, and the matter will be considered in connection with the budget.

Mr. Winkler: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer to the remark made by a backbencher. I hope he will be ready to play ball on the 24th.

HOUSING**REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO STIMULATE SPRING STARTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Keays (Gaspé): I should like to direct a question to the minister responsible