

Inquiries of the Ministry

will have no authority to make recommendations against the raising of the Ross dam and that it will be confined exclusively to dealing with the ecological effects of the construction of the dam and the flooding of the Skagit Valley?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman has asked me for a legal opinion which I would not venture to give in the House.

Mr. Stanfield: That is a good retreat.

Mr. Douglas: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am not asking for a legal opinion. The Secretary of State for External Affairs is a member of the government which signed the agreement. I am asking the minister what the agreement means. Does the agreement mean that the International Joint Commission will have the power to recommend that the Skagit Valley not be flooded, or is it restricted by clause (c) to discussing merely the ecological effects of such flooding? Surely the government which signed this agreement knows what it means.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has asked his question twice. Perhaps the minister would like to reply quickly, after which the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Portneuf.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, the only reply I can give is to read clause (c), if you will permit me to do so.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the moment has come to recognize the hon. member for Portneuf.

Mr. Stanfield: The minister did not deny that my interpretation was correct.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY**SLATER SHOES—MEASURES TO PREVENT CLOSING OF OTHER SHOE PLANTS**

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. minister for Regional Economic Expansion concerning the closing down of the Slater Shoe plant.

Since some industries which are presently running into trouble will be able to hold on for a few years on grants from the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, I wonder if the minister could tell the House what measures he intends to take to see that industries being run by millionnaires and which are considering transferring their equipment to foreign countries—as in the case of the Slater Shoe Company—will be able to pursue their operations.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is asking the minister to make a statement of a rather general nature and I do not think the question is in order.

[Mr. Douglas.]

[English]

PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ACT PROHIBITING CERTAIN PUBLIC GATHERINGS—SUGGESTED REFERENCE TO SUPREME COURT OF CANADA**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Has he examined the act of the Prince Edward Island Legislature, entitled "An act for the prohibition of certain public gatherings"? If so, is he giving consideration to acting under Section 55 of the Supreme Court Act and referring this measure to the Supreme Court of Canada for consideration and decision?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I have only just seen a copy of the act, and I do not know if royal assent has been given to it. Until we have had an opportunity to study it more closely, I do not think it would be proper to make any comment.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the wide suspension of normally accepted liberties, particularly the right of assembly, and in view of the importance of this legislation in light of similar legislation dealt with in this House last fall, was there any consultation with the Minister of Justice or other members of the government before this legislation was introduced into the provincial legislature of Prince Edward Island?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Not so far as I know, Mr. Speaker.

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ENERGY**DEVELOPMENT OF PARALLEL POLICY ADAPTABLE TO NEEDS OF UNITED STATES MARKET**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the statement yesterday by Jack Austin, deputy minister of resources, that Canada is developing a parallel energy policy that will permit ready adaptation to the needs of the United States' market, can the minister say if this is the case? If it is the case, when will the minister announce the national energy policy?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think the deputy minister's speech referred to the development of Canada's national energy policy in the decade since the national oil policy was announced. While the term is certainly descriptive—a parallel policy rather than an integrated or continental policy, and very well put—we have developed Canada's national energy policies in the Canadian interest and to the benefit of Canada but have continually sought to sell our surplus product in the American market.