

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, without conceding that this reflects anything that the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion might have said, I might say in reply to part of the question of the right hon. member that this certainly is not a statement of government policy. This government has no policy regarding separatism, except that it will not happen.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, can the Prime Minister say that this outrageous doctrine the minister uttered, which actually violates our constitution, will not be carried into effect? This new form of veto announced by the minister, which would change the constitution, is something I have not heard before, and I thank the Prime Minister for saying that the minister was talking through his hat.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**SPECIAL AREAS—AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCES**

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I directed a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion as to how many provincial governments have concluded agreements with the federal government in relation to the special areas program, and the minister replied that "there are no formal agreements on this." In view of his statement on March 11 that the first of these agreements will be signed with Newfoundland and New Brunswick very shortly, I would like to ask him how many provincial governments have now signed agreements with the federal government on this program?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): The answer is exactly the same as yesterday, Mr. Speaker.

ENERGY**ASSISTANCE TO GLACE BAY HEAVY WATER PLANT**

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Mr. Speaker. In view of reports that heavy water will be rationed among Canadian atomic energy plants, will the minister say if the government is now prepared to grant assistance to the government of Nova Scotia to finish the Glace Bay heavy water plant?

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, discussions are continuing with the province of Nova Scotia in this regard but there is nothing to announce at the present time.

Mr. Thomson: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister been able to find out if we can get heavy water from other sources for our atomic energy plants?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, I think we have been able to acquire some heavy water from other sources to help carry us over the short period, we hope, when we will have a shortfall of heavy water.

SHIPBUILDING**COMPLETION OF ROBERTSON INQUIRY**

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Further to questions that have been asked from time to time about the Robertson inquiry into shipbuilding, can the minister now say when this government, industry-based investigation will be completed?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I shall inquire, Mr. Speaker, and answer this question next time.

Mr. Bell: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the minister replies will he go as far as he possibly can to indicate the disposition of this report and what the government intends to do, because of the very heavy lay-offs in what little is left of the shipbuilding industry in Canada and the fact that the men are leaving this industry and are leaving the country?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is making a suggestion to the minister which he has to assume will be taken under consideration.

[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS**UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASE—RELATIONSHIP TO ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, in view of the serious condition of unemployment, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Labour. Perhaps he does not hear me, but I will ask my question any way.

Could the Minister tell us whether he is in favour of increased unemployment as a means to help the Minister of Finance check inflation?