

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Postmaster General.

The proposal of the government having been turned down, does the government still intend to continue negotiations or have they decided to close the matter?

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, I have said there would be no more offers made by the government.

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[English]

WATER RESOURCES

PARTICIPATION BY BRITISH COLUMBIA IN EXAMINATION OF PROBLEMS CAUSED BY CONSTRUCTION OF BENNETT DAM

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Has the government of British Columbia decided to join the governmental groups, including the federal government, in examining the problems caused by the construction of the Bennett dam and its detrimental downstream effect on the people and the ecology of the Peace and Athabasca Deltas?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): The government of British Columbia has been approached in this connection. It has personally assured me that any factual information that is necessary to carry out this study will be made available. However, I doubt if there will be a formal attendance by British Columbia in view of the fact that certain interests are taking the province of British Columbia to court in this matter.

BENNETT DAM—SECURING OF PERMIT BY BRITISH COLUMBIA UNDER NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. Has the minister made a recent examination of this problem and can he inform the House whether the Bennett dam was constructed without the government of British Columbia having secured the appropriate permission under the Navigable Waters protection Act?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I have asked for some additional information on this subject, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice and provide an answer as quickly as possible.

Mr. Baldwin: A further supplementary. Will the Minister bear in mind and advise the province of British Columbia that under the provisions of that Act—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Mr. Côté (Longueuil).]

FISHERIES

EAST COAST OF CANADA—DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET UNION

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Will the delegation now in the Soviet Union be having any discussions with regard to the east coast fisheries? If so, does the minister foresee any agreement or settlement with regard to the problem of overfishing by that country on our east coast?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, the principal purpose of the Canadian delegation to the U.S.S.R. is to sign the west coast agreement. However, while its members are in Moscow they will discuss possibilities for understandings on the east coast with the Russians.

Mr. Lundrigan: In view of the fact the delegation is having preliminary discussions, will there at some future date be a formal sit-down with the Soviet Union on a similar basis to that with regard to the west coast last summer?

Mr. Davis: I doubt whether we can reach an understanding with Russia on a similar basis to that on the west coast. As the hon. member will remember, the closure of the west coast ports led to that settlement. I am sure the hon. member is not advocating the closure of east coast ports to U.S.S.R. fishing vessels.

Mr. Lundrigan: The minister is misrepresenting my question and he knows it. He is playing politics as well.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has the floor for the purpose of asking a supplementary question.

Mr. Lundrigan: I am simply asking the minister whether in fact we are going to have sit-down talks with the Soviet Union with regard to the east coast fishery. It is very simple.

Mr. Davis: We must have continuing talks with the U.S.S.R. The problem on the east coast is serious and we recognize it as such.

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AGRICULTURE

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT RESPECTING CERTAIN LANDS TURNED OVER TO CROWN ASSETS DISPOSAL CORPORATION FOR SALE

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Supply and Services. In view of the fact that the PFRA administration has turned over 45 parcels of land to Crown Assets Disposal Corporation for sale and as the appraisers are now asking 345 per