

Inquiries of the Ministry

I shall be glad to make copies available to hon. members along with a copy of the petition itself.

INDIAN AFFAIRS—ROYALTY PAYMENTS ON
HOBBEMA RESERVE, ALBERTA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ray Thomas (Wetaskiwin): Can the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration tell us whether or not the 118 Indians from the Hobbema reserve are receiving their royalty payments while the appeal is pending or whether they are being held in trust for them, and whether the receipt of them will depend on the outcome of the appeal?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): I understand, sir, that once the appeal was entered these people were treated like the other members of the band, and that they will be assumed to be members of the band unless the courts should decide otherwise.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION TO NEW CANADIANS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the government received representations urging that old age security and old age assistance be made available to newcomers in Canada provided they have become citizens of this country? In view of the stress that was properly laid yesterday on the question of citizenship by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration will further consideration be given to these requests?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would be unable from memory to say just when and from whom representations were received, but I know such representations have been made and I know that the matter is under consideration.

THE BUDGET

INQUIRY AS TO FORM OF PRESENTATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Finance. Has the minister observed that he is the subject of verse in a morning paper, and has he considered whether the pain of his budget might be less if he could produce it in verse?

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Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, may I say that I observed the poetry to which reference has been made. All I can say is that I shall not deliver the budget in poetry.

An hon. Member: It gets "verse and verse".

FINANCE

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION
DECLINE IN 1957

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Does the minister consider that no government action is required to correct the situation revealed in the departmental release tabled yesterday by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, which estimates that there will be a decrease of 18 per cent in housing construction in 1957 and an increase of 16 per cent in non-residential construction?

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the press release yesterday indicated that a more detailed statement would be brought forward shortly. I do not propose to make any comment on the material in it until it is published. However, I should point out that if it is correct—I refer to the press statement, and I have no reason to believe that it is not correct—that there will be a decline of 18 per cent in housing construction in Canada this year, that percentage is a great deal less than the members of my hon. friend's party have been trying to make out.

FISHERIES

SALMON AND TROUT—EFFECT OF PROPOSED
NOVA SCOTIA HYDRO DEVELOPMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. A. M. Kirk (Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Fisheries I should like to direct a question to his parliamentary assistant. What steps will the Department of Fisheries take, in view of the recent announcement of a proposed hydro development in Nova Scotia, to ensure that there will be no unnecessary detrimental effect on the salmon and trout fishing in the rivers involved in this important development?

Mr. J. Watson MacNaught (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his intention to ask this question. The question is based