

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Text]

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer that question specifically but I will be glad to look into it. Meanwhile may I say that the policy of the government on the matter has already been announced.

**PUBLIC SERVICE****PENITENTIARY SERVICE—EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS OVER 45**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Justice. Is he now in a position to reply to the question I posed some time ago relating to age restrictions for non-custodial positions in the penitentiary service?

**Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I had the intention of meeting the director of penitentiaries, but he has been away on duty for quite some time recently. He has just returned and I will discuss the matter with him at the earliest possible date.

**SUPERANNUATED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES—REQUEST FOR INCREASED PENSIONS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the right hon. gentleman received a request recently from the federal superannuates national association for legislation this session to amend the Public Service Pension Adjustment Act, and can we expect a favourable response to this request during the present session of parliament?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** I believe within the last few days I have received such a communication, but I should like to check. The matter will be under consideration in the light of that communication, and I shall be glad to report to the house as soon as I can.

**SHIPPING****GREAT LAKES—STATEMENT BY INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION ON WATER LEVELS**

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, earlier this week both the right hon. Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Grey North raised questions concerning the serious low water conditions

which presently exist in the great lakes basin. In this connection, if I have the permission of the house, I should like to table a statement recently furnished to the governments of Canada and the United States by the international joint commission, which statement I believe was requested yesterday.

The international joint commission has responsibility with regard to certain regulatory works in the international section of the St. Lawrence river and has stated that these works will continue to be operated under present extraordinary conditions in order to alleviate, to the greatest extent possible, the situation in lake Ontario and downstream. I can assure the house that the government is very much concerned about this matter and will adopt all measures open to it which will help to minimize these extremely low water levels.

The Leader of the Opposition also mentioned the Chicago diversion. Some United States domestic aspects of this problem are now before a special master appointed by the United States supreme court. He is in no doubt about the position the Canadian government takes toward the Chicago diversion. In the past the Canadian government has repeatedly made clear its unalterable opposition to the unilateral diversion of great lakes water. There is no difference on this point between the policy of the present government and that of the government which was headed by the right hon. gentleman.

**Mr. Speaker:** Did I understand that the Prime Minister wished to table some documents?

**Mr. Pearson:** I should like to table the report of the international joint commission, which I thought was rather too lengthy to read.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey North):** I should like to ask the Prime Minister if this has anything to do with the international joint commission.

**Mr. Pearson:** It is the report of the international joint commission that I am tabling. I know it will be of special interest to the hon. member.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE****REQUEST FOR ORGANIZATION MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** I wonder if I could direct a question to the hon. member