

Inquiries of the Ministry

services in drafting a comprehensive plan of development for the Atlantic region, will the minister now be directing the Atlantic Development Board to make greater use, particularly in the next month or so, of the offices of APEC in order to produce a comprehensive plan for the region that will be meaningful?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The Atlantic Development Board is moving toward the preparation of a comprehensive development plan for the Atlantic provinces. The studies preparatory to a general plan have concentrated on sectors of the economy such as, for example, forestry, agriculture and so on. The reports concerning these sectors will be considered at the next meeting of the Atlantic Development Board, and following these discussions it will be possible to move toward the preparation of a comprehensive development plan for the Atlantic provinces.

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): May I ask a supplementary question. I wonder if the minister could indicate, in view of the more than a decade of experience of APEC, why the services of this most important body have not been used to date in the drafting of this plan.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): I have a supplementary question. In view of the report of APEC, to which I referred the other day, to the effect there is a great deal of confusion and lack of co-ordination existing among the various federal and provincial bodies concerned with the economic development of the Atlantic region, has the minister given any thought to having a conference of the agencies so we will avoid a situation such as APEC describes, within the province of Nova Scotia having three plans put before them rather than one?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to accept fully the comments of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council concerning the lack of co-ordination among these agencies concerned with economic development. It is true that in recent years we have set up many new programs and new agencies to operate in this field, and I am sure there is a desirable necessity for co-ordination. We are quite happy to consider any comments made by APEC in order to improve the situation.

[Mr. MacDonald (Prince).]

FISHERIES**INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF FRESH WATER FISH MARKETING BOARD**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Springfield): I should like to ask the Minister of Fisheries whether, after deliberation, the government has any immediate plans for the establishment of a fresh water fish marketing board as recommended by the McIvor commission.

Hon. H.-J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries): I had hoped my hon. friend would be aware of the fact that this matter comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Mr. Schreyer: Then may I put the question to the appropriate minister. In view of the many requests for action in this connection, can the minister say whether the government has formulated any immediate plan of action?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): We are still awaiting the reaction of several agencies and one or two provinces. In the absence of these replies we have not yet formulated a plan.

TRANSPORT**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CAUSEWAY—
REPORTED DECISION TO INCLUDE RAILS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David MacDonald (Prince): I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Public Works. In view of the remarks made yesterday in Charlottetown by Colonel Edward Churchill to the effect it has now been decided rails will be included in the design of the Prince Edward Island causeway, can the minister assure this house that such a decision has been taken by his department?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): I should point out to the hon. member that neither the text nor the printed reports of this speech indicate that Colonel Churchill said a decision has been taken to include rails on the causeway.

● (3:10 p.m.)

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Batten in the chair.

**DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER AND
IMMIGRATION**

Departmental Administration—

1. Administration, operation and maintenance, \$4,206,600.