COMMONS DEBATES

WATER RESOURCES

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON POLLUTION PROBLEM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. Does the minister expect shortly to make a report on the general problems of pollution other than the joint report he is expecting from the Ontario government?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, a lot of work is being done in this field at this moment in view of the very important international conference on pollution which is to be held in Montreal in October and November next. Most departments of the federal government, the Departments of Agriculture and of National Health and Welfare for example, at this moment are preparing for this event.

PUBLIC SERVICE

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING—INQUIRY
AS TO LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question concerns the order of business of the house and I therefore direct it to the Prime Minister. In view of the serious situation developing between the Postal Employees' Union, the Civil Service Association and the Civil Service Federation, is the government planning to give top priority to legislation that would provide for collective bargaining in the civil service?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. That legislation is being given top priority and I hope it will be before the house shortly.

EXPO '67

USE BY EDMONTON OF "KLONDIKE" THEME

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Has he received any communication from the government of the Yukon asking for his intervention with the government of the province of Alberta respecting the use of the Klondike theme?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have.

The Budget-Mr. F. E. Leblanc

Mr. Nielsen: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister inform the house what action he or his government intends to take in this regard?

Mr. Laing: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I listened to the hon. member deal with this matter. I think that the somewhat tropical language he used might be as effective as anything I can do in drawing it to public attention. I do not know whether it would be proper for me to remonstrate with the city of Edmonton or with the Edmonton exhibition board. However, we shall be having some discussions on this subject.

• (3:40 p.m.)

THE BUDGET

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed, from Wednesday, April 20, consideration of the motion of Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Monteith.

[Translation]

Mr. Fernand E. Leblanc (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, yesterday at five o'clock you called me to order because the house had to interrupt the budget debate to proceed with consideration of private members' business.

However, I saw this morning a newspaper comment on the second part of my speech, dealing with the Bélanger Commission, which I was to deliver this afternoon. Obviously, there is a misunderstanding which I hasten to correct immediately.

Before getting on with the second half of my speech, I must finish expounding my philosophy concerning private enterprise in its relations with the state.

As I was saying, when I was interrupted, you will admit that the intervention of the state is unavoidable at the present time, but that it must necessarily be restricted to areas and methods of operation where private enterprise is less efficient and weaker, or uneconomical.

Not so long ago government controls applied mainly to a particular class of undertakings. After two wars and the recession of the thirties, the difference between public and private enterprise has lost its meaning on several scores. Joint enterprises where businessmen and governments are partners have come about and I think that is a gratifying development.