

Inquiries of the Ministry

being held under the auspices of the United Nations in Stockholm in 1972 dealing with all problems of world environment. In Brussels, the Minister of Transport attempted to get more stringent international regulations governing oil spills; and the Food and Agriculture Organization is holding a technical conference in Rome in December, 1970, on marine pollution and its effects on living resources and fishing. This conference will be chaired by the Deputy Minister of Fisheries of Canada.

Mr. Aiken: A further supplementary question. Has the government yet established a plan or proposal to submit to the international organization for the control of oil pollution on the high seas?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, we have made a number of proposals along these lines. I can think of nothing more comprehensive than what we have proposed. I think anything less comprehensive would not meet the bill.

PUBLIC WORKS**TORONTO—COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION ON PROJECT METRO**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question that I have directed both to the Secretary of State and the Minister of Transport. My question relates to a matter I raised with both ministers about a week ago, which they took as notice. My question is: How much longer does the government intend to hold up commencement of construction on Project Metro in Toronto?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I deny the allegation, which I am sure is not intentional, contained in the hon. member's question. I should like to know what it is that we are doing to hold up the project. As far as I am aware, no impediment has been placed in the way.

Mr. Nesbitt: A supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I should have taken some exception to the question asked by the hon. member, which was in the form of an allegation rather than a question. The hon. member might be allowed a real question by way of a supplementary.

Mr. Nesbitt: Would the Minister of Transport inform the House how soon it is expected work will start on project Metro in Toronto?

[Mr. Sharp.]

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, the information I have is that this is a joint venture, in the first instance, between Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways. These two bodies are now working out the detailed plans. I repeat that except for the Canadian National advising us of their progress, we have not placed any impediment in the way. Indeed, we have been co-operating with them with regard to the transportation aspects of the project, particularly the establishment, quite possibly, of a downtown air terminal in the complex.

Mr. Nesbitt: A supplementary question. Has the minister had any discussion with his colleague the Secretary of State with respect to the substantial interest in this project of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation? Is it approval of this project by the Corporation that is holding up construction?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**BASIS OF GROWTH RATE FORECAST BY OECD**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance a question relating to the very disappointing forecast of growth for Canada made by the OECD for the current year, namely a growth rate of 2½ per cent, considerably lower than the forecast made by the minister himself. Is this due to the slowdown in our economy being greater than the minister had anticipated, or does it reflect the considered opinion of the OECD advisers with regard to the effect of the floating rate of the dollar on the growth rate of Canada?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it reflects the effect of the floating dollar, because when OECD were engaging in this consideration they had no knowledge that the dollar was going to be floated. We are looking at our own forecast, but I would be glad to report to my hon. friend after I have had more opportunity to examine the OECD figures, since I returned to the House only yesterday.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the minister completes his survey of the situation, would he make a statement to the House indicating what measures he proposes the government should take to effect a less disappointing result, in view of the disastrous employment consequences that