

Inquiries of the Ministry

and give my hon. friend an answer at the next sitting.

Mr. Aiken: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether the federal position on the IJC proposal that phosphates should be banned by 1972 is being propounded?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, when the IJC report in this regard came out we took immediate action. This question has been given study by an interdepartmental committee. Some of my officers returned from Sweden only yesterday I believe following a specific study of the situation, and I hope to have a comprehensive report within a few days.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, may I preface my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development by saying how much I enjoyed the radio broadcast he made to the citizens of the Northwest Territories on the occasion of their centenary during which he used such phrases as—

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the hon. member intend to ask a question?

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Oh, indeed, Mr. Speaker, indeed. Because of the fine phrases the minister used during that radio broadcast I should like to ask—

Some hon. Members: Question!

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Don't be impatient. I should like to ask the minister when he will be making a statement, either in the Northwest Territories or to the House, about the question of self-government for the Northwest Territories?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I have already made a statement in the House about this matter.

[*English*]

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Minister has just engaged in misleading the House when he said he made a statement to the House about self-government for the Northwest Territo-

[*Mr. Greene.*]

ries. He did no such thing. If he made any statement it was for continued colonial status.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

FINANCE**REQUEST FOR REDEEMING OF PERPETUAL BONDS**

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, in view of the extremely low interest rate of 3 per cent on Dominion of Canada perpetual bonds I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he will consider calling in these bonds which are held mainly by elderly people and those on fixed incomes, and also in view of the fact that yesterday they were quoted at \$36?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, when people buy perpetual bonds they are buying an interest rate. In effect the bonds go on forever. The perpetual bonds issued have changed hands a great many times, and in most circumstances people generally buy at a price that will produce the kind of interest rate they want. This is the nature of perpetual bonds.

Mr. Hales: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the interest rate of 3 per cent would substantiate the minister's remarks. However, will he give those people who are in possession of these bonds the opportunity to register them and give proof of date of purchase, and will the government then withdraw them up to say the year 1955?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, one would have to look at this very carefully. For example, if the government redeemed perpetual bonds at par someone who bought them at \$47, for example, would make \$53 per \$100 invested.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hesitate to interfere but it seems to me this is becoming a debate between the minister and the hon. member.

POLLUTION**ACTION RESPECTING CONTAMINATION OF SASKATCHEWAN RIVER BY MERCURY**

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry say what action, if any, has been taken to eliminate or control the mercury pollution of the Saskatchewan River, which has been acknowledged by the government?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, the source which I