

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Henderson: Then may I ask a supplementary question. Would the minister tell us if he disagrees with the report of the Toronto builders' exchange that it will be a grim year in 1958?

Mr. Fleming: I think I have already commented on that. I have not seen the report—

Mr. Speaker: Order. One of the rules which relate to questioning is that it is not proper to ask the ministry to verify the truth of a newspaper report which, in effect, is what the supplementary question does ask. That rule has been overlooked to some extent, but I think we should bear it in mind.

FISHERIES**REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF SMELT NETS UNDER INSURANCE PLAN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. R. McWilliam (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the house leader, in the absence of the Minister of Fisheries; and I would judge that the house leader may wish to take this question as notice.

In view of the loss of nets and gear suffered by Miramichi smelt fishermen recently and in previous seasons, will the government give consideration to including smelt nets as insurable items under the fishermen's insurance plan?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, we will be very glad to look into this situation.

PUBLIC WORKS**VICTORIAVILLE, QUE.—REQUEST FOR ERECTION OF PROTECTION WALL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Samuel Boulanger (Drummond-Arthabaska): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. Has the minister received a request from the city of Victoriaville for a grant for the construction of a protection wall? If so, is the minister favourable to such grant, and when might it be expected?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): I will have to take this question as notice.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**ADMISSION OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND WORKMEN FROM UNITED STATES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a two-pronged question. The shorter prong is directed to the

Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and the longer prong is directed to the Minister of National Revenue in the hope of skewering him.

In view of the fact that the owners of idle construction equipment in British Columbia are complaining that United States mining companies are permitted to bring their equipment of various kinds into Canada together with the employees necessary to do this type of work, while Canadian equipment and employees remain idle, would the minister inquire into this situation and take action to safeguard the interests of unemployed Canadian citizens?

Hon. G. C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, it shows the sporting instinct of the hon. gentleman that he should direct the longer prong toward the longer person. I, of course, have nothing to say with respect to the entry of United States workmen into Canada. That is a matter for another department. In so far as the reference to machinery is concerned, it is true that under our tariff act certain types of mining machinery are allowed entry into Canada free of duty, under the old principle that they are used for the development of Canadian natural resources. That, of course, is a matter of legislation.

The question confuses mining with construction, and I am not quite sure whether its terms cover construction machinery or mining machinery. If it is mining machinery then, as I have said, certain types enter free of duty. In so far as construction machinery is concerned, that does not enter free of duty and since my term of office began, at least, there have been no special concessions made to permit the entry of any construction machinery from the United States into Canada except on payment of the regular tariffs. A surplus of secondhand machinery overhangs the American market at the moment, and my officials are watchful to see that this machinery is very carefully appraised for customs duty before admission to Canada.

Mr. Herridge: It is mining machinery that can be used on construction in Canada. I thank the minister for his explanation and I will let him know the facts later. If you could stop the machinery you would stop the men, because the men are brought in because they are necessary to work the machines.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Acting Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, with reference to the second and shorter prong of the question, I know the hon. gentleman's