

Inquiries of the Ministry

atomic energy control board, he accepted a directorship with Canadian Chemical and Celulose Company. He receives no pay whatever from the atomic energy control board.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**REPORTED TRANSFER OF RESERVE ARMY TO CIVIL DEFENCE ROLE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. J. Henderson (Kingston): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence in view of his statement appearing at page 37 of *Hansard* for October 16, to the effect that in the training period for the non-permanent militia starting October 1 emphasis will be given to civil defence. May I ask the minister whether literature, directions for courses of study, equipment and instructions have been provided to the militia to carry on its training to date with emphasis on civil defence?

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): The annual training instruction to which I referred described in general terms the type of training which was to be carried out by the militia in connection with the civil defence duties; in particular, it laid down that certain staff discussions would take place with civil authorities. It directed that study should be given to the application of corps training to civil defence requirements, and also that there should be mobile support group exercises. Beyond that, there has been a block syllabus of some 60 periods based on the civil defence précis which have been issued. Furthermore military publications dealing with first aid, traffic control and radiation monitoring have been issued. I think that covers in general the publications which have been issued. These will be followed up by further instruction as the training proceeds.

Regarding equipment, no special equipment has been issued as yet to army units. This matter is under consideration with the civil defence authorities, who in the past have been responsible for the issue of such equipment.

A large number of militia officers have attended the civil defence college at Arnprior over a considerable period of time. It is hoped that it will be possible to step up the attendance at these courses by other militia officers, non-commissioned officers and men.

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT**BRITISH COLUMBIA—STATEMENT ON FISHERMEN'S UNION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Yesterday the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett) asked the Minister of

Fisheries whether he had taken any steps to terminate the investigation into the affairs of the united fishermen and allied workers' union of British Columbia by the combines investigation branch. The Minister of Fisheries promised a reply today, and since the combines branch is under my department he asked me to reply.

The investigation referred to is an investigation into the production, purchase and sale of fish in the province of British Columbia, which was commenced by the director under the Combines Investigation Act as the result of a formal complaint under the act. The matter has been the subject of considerable previous discussion in the house, particularly between the hon. member who asked the question yesterday and my predecessor in the former government.

The position is that no steps have been taken by the minister to terminate the investigation because, under the present legislation, the minister has no authority to direct that an investigation be discontinued. The terms of the act require that the director in such a case as this:

... shall cause an inquiry to be made into all such matters as he considers necessary to inquire into with the view of determining the facts.

Such an inquiry then proceeds until, again in the words of the act:

... the director is of the opinion that the matter being inquired into does not justify further inquiry—

—or until the inquiry culminates in a written report by the restrictive trade practices commission to the minister. The minister himself, by the legislation, is given no authority to terminate the investigation.

Hon. James Sinclair (Coast-Capilano): May I ask a supplementary question of the minister regarding the investigation by the combines branch into the activities not just of the fishermen's union but of the fishing industry as well in British Columbia. I appreciate the position taken by the minister that he cannot interfere, but can he ask the director of combines to speed up the investigation, since it has now dragged on for over a year?

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, in that connection I should advise the hon. gentleman that although the formal application was received in November, 1955, the inquiry had to wait several months to be placed on the agenda. After it was so placed the union brought action for an injunction which had the effect of delaying the investigation further. Then the selection of a time for calling witnesses which would not interfere unduly with the fishing season caused further delay, and as a result witnesses are being called before the restrictive trade practices commission this month in Vancouver.