

Inquiries of the Ministry

amendments to the Criminal Code is available yet. If not, and if it is brought down during the recess, would the minister send copies to the members of the house, particularly to the lawyer members, so that the opinions of local bar associations can be secured regarding the provisions of the suggested amendments? I think it would be most helpful to have the benefit of the opinions of the bar associations on a matter so important as extensive amendments to the Criminal Code that take place only once every sixty years.

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): I am sure my hon. friend will realize that a report of this nature must necessarily involve some questions of government policy. Therefore, while we would be anxious to get the widest distribution possible of the report amongst members as soon as possible, I cannot very well take any steps in that regard until I have discussed it with my colleagues in the cabinet. As I indicated a few days ago, when I think it was my hon. friend who asked the question, not only have we not received the report but we do not expect to receive it for some little time yet. I can assure him it will be promptly taken up with the cabinet and that our action from that point on will be governed by the decision reached therein.

CAPITAL COST ALLOWANCES**DEFERMENT—INQUIRY AS TO CUT-BACK IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I have a question I wish to put to the Minister of Trade and Commerce of which I have sent notice. Can the minister before the end of the session inform the house statistically how much cut-back he estimates there has been in capital expenditure since the announcement of deferred capital cost allowance? How much of this cut-back was due to (a) credit restriction; (b) curbs on instalment buying; (c) deferred capital cost allowance—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): —and, Mr. Speaker, (d) any other cause.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question might be a proper one to appear on the order paper but as we are getting near the end of the session I think probably it can be put now.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): This question covers a good deal of territory. It asks the government to

read the minds of people who do not go ahead with their capital expenditures. I do not know that we can do that.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): It is not an easy question but I have great confidence in the minister!

Mr. Howe: However, I will be glad to turn it over to our statisticians and attempt to answer it as best we can, without guaranteeing the accuracy of the reply.

IRRIGATION**SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER PROJECT—REQUEST FOR REPORT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): I should like to ask the Prime Minister if there is any likelihood of our receiving the report of the commission investigating the South Saskatchewan river project before the end of the session?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): No, there is not. I am told it may be February or March before they will have completed their studies.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE**INQUIRY AS TO PROVISION OF PREFABRICATED METAL HUTS FOR PERSONNEL IN GREAT BRITAIN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence concerning a matter which has just come to my attention, but I presume he can answer without notice. Is it correct that prefabricated metal huts are being sent to Great Britain to house R.C.A.F. personnel over there?

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): We are purchasing a number of prefabricated huts in Great Britain for use as storage depots for the R.C.A.F. but not for married quarters. The situation with respect to married quarters is that at the R.A.F. station at North Luffenham there are ninety-two permanent married quarters. The R.A.F. has been most co-operative in making them available. So far we have got possession of all except fifteen. When the wing moved to the other side transportation was provided for the wives and children of ninety-two officers and airmen. The others were warned that there would be no accommodation for them, and I am afraid that situation will continue. As hon. members know, there is a severe housing shortage in the United Kingdom. The station is located in an agricultural district, and there will be no accommodation for any considerable number of married personnel.