

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, February 23, 1950

The house met at three o'clock.

PRIVATE BILL

FIRST READING

Bill No. 7, to incorporate Alberta Natural Gas Company.—Mr. Maybank.

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT

FLAT GLASS AND MATCH INDUSTRIES—REFERENCE TO ANSWER TO QUESTION ON FEBRUARY 22

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): I should like to make a correction to an answer which I gave yesterday, as reported at page 128 of *Hansard*. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) yesterday asked me a question without previous notice. When the *Hansard* proof came to my office for correction I realized that I had mistaken the question asked by the hon. member as dealing with the flat glass report rather than with the match report to which it did refer.

The answer I gave yesterday was quite correct in relation to the flat glass industry. The situation with respect to the match report is as follows: In accordance with the usual procedure, the match report, after being considered by the law officers of the Department of Justice, was submitted to outside counsel on February 6, 1950, for an opinion as to whether prosecution is warranted. It is expected that this opinion will be received in the near future.

INQUIRY AS TO ASSOCIATION OF EDDY MATCH COMPANY WITH E. B. EDDY COMPANY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. Chester S. McLure (Queens): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. I gave him a copy of it, and I know he is prepared to answer it. In view of the minister's intimation a few days ago of impending prosecutions in the match industry, will the minister inform the house whether the Eddy Match Company, mentioned in the McGregor report, is affiliated with or associated with the E. B. Eddy Paper Company in Hull, just across the Ottawa river from this building?

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): I want to thank my hon. friend for giving me

notice of the question. From such inquiry as I have been able to make in the short time since I received notice of the question, I find that the E. B. Eddy Company, of Hull, and the Eddy Match Company, which has a factory at Pembroke, Ontario, are separate corporations. That is all I can say.

Hon. Alphonse Fournier (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I know personally that there is no relationship between the Eddy paper company in Hull and the Eddy Match Company. I understand that in 1924 the E. B. Eddy Company sold its interests in the Eddy Match Company to some other firm in this country or outside. The local company in Hull has no relationship with the Eddy Match Company.

Mr. Knowles: In view of the publicity given to the minister's answer of yesterday, will he inform the house as soon as a decision has been reached with respect to this matter?

Mr. Garson: Yes, I will, Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our usual practice.

Mr. Knowles: Not the way you did it last time.

WHEAT

INQUIRY AS TO PAYMENT ON SALES, 1945 TO 1948 CROPS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): I wish to direct a question to the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, arising out of the widespread desire of western farmers to know whether or not the wheat board will in fact make an interim or final payment in connection with the sale of the 1945 to 1948 crops. Is the parliamentary assistant now in a position to give some information with regard to that matter?

Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Trade and Commerce): I am not in a position to give much information that would be helpful. The situation is that a great many messages have been received from members, producers and farm organizations with respect to this matter. The subject matter of the representations has been passed on to the wheat board, and they are now considering the whole question. Beyond that I have nothing to say that would be helpful.