

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): The report has been received, that is both the majority and the minority reports. We have sent copies of both these reports to the interested parties in the dispute, but I have no comment to make at this time as to how the majority report will be received. I can only hope that it will be accepted.

FINANCE**RUBBER FOOTWEAR—INQUIRY AS TO TARIFF BOARD REPORT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Marcel Boivin (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Could the minister inform the house when he expects to table the report of the tariff board on rubber footwear?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have not yet received the report.

FISHERIES**REPORTED AGREEMENT BY JAPAN TO MOVE FISHING BOUNDARIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Has the minister's attention been drawn to a report in a recent issue of *Business Week* to the effect that Japan had agreed with the United States to move her fishing boundaries five degrees to the west of the present boundary and, if the report is correct, was Canada consulted as a member, along with the United States and Japan, of the north Pacific salmon fisheries commission?

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries): I have not seen the article to which the hon. member refers and I should therefore not like to comment on it at this time, except to say that all three countries referred to are members of the salmon fisheries commission which the hon. member mentioned, and that no official action would be taken unilaterally by any one of them.

Mr. Howard: This was bilateral.

FRUIT**BRITISH COLUMBIA—REQUEST FOR DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. I apologize for not having sent him notice, but the question is the result of a sort of mental spontaneous

[Mr. Chevrier.]

combustion. Anyway, I am sure the minister knows the answer to it, and has it on the tip of his tongue—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Herridge: In view of the announcement made yesterday by the Minister of Finance that the government is the farmer's friend, could the minister inform the house when this friendship will be further demonstrated by the making of deficiency payments to British Columbia fruit growers on certain 1957 tree fruit crops, to which they have been looking forward for some time?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture): The hon. member asked much the same question about 10 days ago, I think, and I told him at that time that we were giving consideration to this question and waiting for further information from the British Columbia tree fruit growers' association with regard to the 1957 apple crop. That information has come to hand, and I expect I will be in a position to make some statement about this matter in the very near future.

PRIVILEGE**MR. AIKEN—CORRECTION OF STATEMENT IN OTTAWA "JOURNAL"**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter which I believe to be a question of privilege. In the first column on page 7 of the *Ottawa Journal* of July 29, 1958, I am described as "Gordon Aiken, Liberal, Parry Sound-Muskoka." This is such a colossal misstatement of fact in a usually reliable newspaper that I believe the record should be kept straight.

PRICE SPREADS**REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT ON ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, we all realize that the Prime Minister is, understandably, away on an errand which I am sure will give him much pleasure. Could I ask the Acting Prime Minister if he would take this question as notice. Would he give the house a progress report on the investigations being carried out by the royal commission on price spreads which was set up on December 10, 1957, under the presidency of Dr. Andrew Stewart of Alberta university? We all noted that Dr. Stewart was here last week, and I imagine he probably conferred with members of the government.