Inquiries of the Ministry
FISHERIES

REPORT OF INQUIRY INTO FRESH WATER FISH MARKETING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric Stefanson (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. Has the minister received the report of the McIvor commission and, if so, when will it be made public?

Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise the hon. member that the report has been received by the Prime Minister. The translation is expected to be completed today or Monday, and it will be tabled early next week.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REQUEST THAT ELECTIONS BE NOT HELD ON SUNDAYS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): I have a question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Would the Prime Minister assure the house that in any legislation arising out of the report of the committee on election expenses no consideration will be given by the government to holding federal elections on a Sunday?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I should be asked to give an assurance of that kind, though personally I would not hesitate to do so. The report of the committee will be submitted to a committee of this house. I think it is a parliamentary matter even though it is also a governmental matter, and before the committee has had a chance to examine it I should not like to say anything more.

[Translation]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister.

Should a democratically elected Quebec government proclaim the independence of Quebec, would the federal government use the army to prevent the province's independence, as stated by the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard)?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question is highly hypothetical.

Mr. Grégoire: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF PENSIONS OF RETIRED EMPOYEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. As he will recall, two or three times in the earlier part of this session he indicated that he was personally agreeable to the idea of enlarging the terms of reference of the joint committee on the public service so that it might consider the question of the pensions of retired civil servants. Can the minister say whether the necessary motion to enlarge the terms of reference accordingly has yet been drafted?

Hon. E. J. Benson (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, this matter has not been discussed further with my colleagues than was mentioned in the house. I expressed a personal opinion at that time. However, I should like to say that we are most anxious to have this committee complete the work it has before it at the moment in order to get the collective bargaining legislation before the house as soon as possible.

Mr. Knowles: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister not recall that the request was that this matter be dealt with after the collective bargaining legislation had been concluded? Would he therefore keep the matter in mind?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The supplementary question is argumentative; the hon. member is asking whether the minister recalls or does not recall something which he may or may not have said before. That is not a proper question.

Mr. Knowles: I am sure he does recall it.

TRADE

GATT—SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONS TO CANADIAN NEGOTIATORS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce the urgency of which I think is apparent from the limited time left for the negotiations under the Kennedy round on tariffs. In view of the resolution passed recently in this city, will the minister instruct the negotiating team to take a more liberal policy with regard to the negotiations in Geneva, or is this just another resolution?