

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

It was agreed that further discussions would be left until a statement of government policy was made in connection with this matter. Now that this has been done, further discussions will be held with the producer associations of British Columbia with a view to working out an equitable arrangement which will take into consideration the special pooling situation which exists in that province.

**RAILWAYS, AIR LINES AND SHIPPING****ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS, AIR LINES AND SHIPPING OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

On the order: Government notices of motion:

March 20—The Minister of Transport—The following proposed motion:—

That a sessional committee on railways, air lines and shipping owned and controlled by the government, be appointed to consider the accounts, estimates and bills relating to the Canadian National Railways and Trans-Canada Air Lines, saving always the powers of the committee of supply in relation to the voting of public moneys; and that the said committee be empowered to send for persons, papers and records, and to report from time to time; and that, notwithstanding standing order 67 in relation to the limitation of the number of members, the said committee shall consist of Messrs. Badanai, Brassard (Lapointe), Broome, Browne (Vancouver-Kingsway), Campeau, Carter, Chevrier, Creaghan, Fisher, Forbes, Granger, Grills, Horner (Jasper-Edson), Howe, Kennedy, McDonald (Hamilton South), McFarlane, McPhillips, McWilliam, Mitchell, Monteith (Verdun), Pascoe, Robinson, Rowe, Smallwood and Smith (Simcoe North).

**Mr. Speaker:** Pursuant to section 2 of standing order 21 this government notice of motion stands transferred to and ordered for consideration under government orders at the next sitting of the house.

**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE****REPORTED INCIDENT FOLLOWING LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER**

On the orders of the day:

**Miss Judy V. LaMarsh (Niagara Falls):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Is the minister aware that when an unemployed iron ore miner wrote to the Prime Minister asking him to do something about unemployment, according to *The Miner's Voice* of Winnipeg for March 1962—

Instead of receiving a sympathetic reply the miner received a visit from the R.C.M.P. He was told if he repeated insulting letters to Mr. Diefenbaker he would be in trouble.

Has the minister any comment on this report?

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the report is entirely unknown to me. If any such incident took place I should hope it would be brought to my attention. In the absence of any such proof I find it extremely difficult to believe that such an incident actually did take place. If anyone has evidence of any such incident I should be glad to be provided with proof of it so that I may make a full investigation.

**POWER****COLUMBIA RIVER—REPORTED SUGGESTION FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPECTING RATIFICATION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister. In view of press reports from Washington that United States authorities have declared that the state and interior departments have recommended that the Canadian government be urged to submit the Columbia river treaty to parliament for ratification immediately, leaving what is referred to as an internal dispute with British Columbia to be settled later by arbitration, would the Prime Minister inform the house whether he has received any such extraordinary suggestion from the United States government?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, following the usual rules regarding communications between nations I think I shall go no further than to say that since the hon. gentleman asked me a question the other day as to whether a message had been received from Washington, a message has been received.

**COLUMBIA RIVER—REPORTED REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL AUTHORITY**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** I wish to address a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of a press report that the premier of British Columbia announced on his return from the United States last week that he has asked Ottawa to relinquish its authority on the Columbia project and let British Columbia finance and proceed with the project by itself, would the Minister of Finance inform the house whether he received such a proposal from the premier during his recent discussions and, if so, what action the government intends to take?

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think it would be fair to the premier of British Columbia, or to the efforts that have been made in the course of our discussions over