

*Inquiries of the Ministry***FISHERIES****SEALS—REQUEST FOR DELAY IN AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Up to the present time has the order in council concerning proposed changes in the seal hunting regulations been passed and, if not, will he delay the passing of this order in council to enable the shore fishermen from Cape Ray to Cape North to supplement their income in this manner and to make further representations to himself and to his officials outlining their objections?

**Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries):** Mr. Speaker, in replying to a question addressed to me on Friday last, I think, I stated that the submission for the order in council had already been signed, and it is expected to be passed within the next 24 hours. At this late date so close to the opening of the season I do not wish to delay the passing of amendments to the seal hunting regulations.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I thank the minister for his reply, but may I ask him if he would not consult with his colleagues who are also involved in this matter and consider if this matter cannot be delayed for a few days longer to see if something cannot be done about the situation?

**Mr. Robichaud:** Mr. Speaker, on different occasions in the house it was stated that the department was open for ideas with respect to amendments that could be made to the regulations. Public meetings were announced which were held in Moncton and the fishermen concerned had the right to make representations. As I said just now, it is too late at this time to consider delaying the passing of these amendments.

**HARMFUL RESULTS OF FEEDING LAKE ERIE FISH TO MINK**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the really alarming reports that mink fed on fish caught in lake Erie have become sterile, what investigations are now being conducted by the department to find the harmful substance in the fish?

[Mr. Sharp.]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This question might very well be placed on the order paper.

**INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. What was the purpose of the visit by the Prime Minister and the house leader to the offices occupied by the Leader of the Opposition and the opposition whip?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest that is not a proper question.

**CANADA PENSION PLAN****INQUIRY AS TO REFUNDS TO EMPLOYERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It has to do with the Canada Pension Plan, and it stems from several representations and complaints I have received from employers. Is the minister considering making provision for employers who have paid more than the maximum, similar to that in the case of employees?

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, this aspect of the Canada Pension Plan is the responsibility of the Minister of National Revenue.

**Mr. Hales:** Mr. Speaker, may I address my question to the Minister of National Revenue?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, the Department of National Revenue is responsible for the collection of funds under the Canada Pension Plan. The problem just raised is one to which we have given a good deal of consideration. Indeed, it was considered by the committee of the house when it examined the Canada Pension Plan. To date my department has not come up with a method of calculating the amount of refunds that should go to each employer, or a method that would facilitate making such refunds. I might also point out that in the United States, where the social security system has been operating for some 40 years, they have not yet been able to work out a system whereby they can refund amounts to employers.

**Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Revenue. I recollect that