

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**ALLEGED EFFECT OF BUDGETARY PROVISIONS
ON WESTERN CANADA**

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Since he delivered his budget speech, has the minister received protests from Alberta and British Columbia about the restrictions imposed upon them to make them poorer and, perhaps, to leave the other provinces of Canada in their present state of poverty?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

WATER RESOURCES**POLLUTION CONTROL IN INTERPROVINCIAL
WATERS—AIR POLLUTION**

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): My question is directed to the Prime Minister, and it may sound similar to a question I asked previously. My question concerns the question of federal responsibility for pollution matters. It arises from the fact the responsibility seems to be fragmenting now, rather than becoming effective. I ask the Prime Minister to lend his mind to this subject and make a statement shortly. The Water Conservation Act is not the answer to the over-all problem.

Mr. Speaker: I have to agree with the hon. member. His question sounds very much like the one he asked earlier today.

Mr. Aiken: I did not get an answer to the previous question. I think the Prime Minister is ready to answer this one.

**PLACENTIA BAY, NFLD.—COMPENSATION TO
FISHERMEN FOR LOSS THROUGH
POLLUTION**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, and the Acting Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, and the Minister of Transport, who has a great deal of interest in this matter, I would like to direct my question to the energetic and ambitious Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Is he prepared to tell the house what the Minister of Transport meant when he said at St. John's the other day that

[Mr. Benson.]

the government would be coming up with a revised plan of compensation for the fishermen of Placentia Bay—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member's question is not in order. He cannot ask the Parliamentary Secretary to give an interpretation of the statement made by the minister.

Mr. McGrath: Then, Mr. Speaker, would you permit me to rephrase my question and ask the parliamentary assistant what is the revised plan of assistance that the government has devised for the fishermen of Placentia Bay?

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the hon. member has in mind at all times, but I can tell him that we have set up an appeal board with three trustworthy and honest fishermen on it, together with two trustworthy and honest civil servants, to listen to the appeals of fishermen in cases where they do not feel they are being properly compensated. I think this is the answer.

[Translation]

FISHERIES**ST. MARY'S BAY, N.S.—DISPUTE BETWEEN
SEINERS AND WEIR FISHERMEN**

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker: I apologize for this preamble, but it is necessary.

[English]

In view of the fact boards of trade, members of this house and the other place, Liberal organizations and many individuals have requested the closing of St. Mary's Bay in Nova Scotia, will the Prime Minister check with his regional desk to see that something is done to protect the rights of the fishermen in this bay?

[Later:]

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry who seems to have all the answers. Can he say whether any action is being planned to close off St. Mary's Bay, Nova Scotia, to protect the fishermen in those waters?

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, it is under concentrated consideration.