

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his question, and I appreciate his interest in taking precautionary measures in regard to the storage of food.

At the present time no special measures are being taken. There is an adequate supply of food in Canada, for which we can be deeply grateful, and our transportation facilities are such that in case of emergency, food could be moved very rapidly from point to point. Nevertheless I shall take under advisement the suggestion contained in his question.

HIGHWAYS

STEWART-CASSIAR, B.C.,—INQUIRY AS TO DOMINION-PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to direct to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Is the minister in a position to advise the house as to the results of the meeting between himself and Hon. Mr. Keirnan, minister of mines of the province of British Columbia, which was held yesterday with respect to the possibility of the early signing of an agreement regarding the Stewart-Cassiar road?

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, discussions and correspondence have been under way for some time with the province of British Columbia about the final agreement to be signed between that province and the federal government concerning this road. I did meet the minister of mines of the province of British Columbia yesterday and we discussed for some time some of the points of difference about which we have been corresponding. I am afraid I will not be able to make any further statement until the agreement is consummated.

Mr. Lesage: Has agreement been reached as to the definite route of the road?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): The answer to that question is no.

IRRIGATION

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER—INQUIRY AS TO CONSTRUCTION START

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. A. Tucker (Rosthern): May I direct a question to the Prime Minister. I do not need to remind him of his promise with regard to the South Saskatchewan dam or the fact that seven months have now elapsed

since the election. Has he anything to tell the house about the promised start on that project?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see the unusual interest of the hon. member for Rosthern—

Mr. McIlraith: Not unusual.

Mr. Diefenbaker:—with respect to a matter about which he was silent for so long. I point out this fact, that negotiations are continuing between the Saskatchewan government and this government to the end that the commencement of the dam will not be long delayed.

POWER

INQUIRY AS TO EXTENSION OF FEDERAL POLICY TO SASKATCHEWAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question in this general field. Can the Prime Minister say whether discussions are now going on between his government and the government of Saskatchewan with relation to bringing Saskatchewan into the federal government's power policy, particularly with respect to thermal plants?

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): I think that question falls within the field of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. I think I can state at this time that at the meeting we had with the premier and provincial treasurer of Saskatchewan following the dominion-provincial conference an informal submission was made by the premier of Saskatchewan to the members of the government, and I believe it was stated that a formal submission would be following. That is the extent of the correspondence and communication I have had officially with the government of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Argue: Do I take it from the minister's answer that the federal government is prepared to extend its current power policy in the Atlantic provinces to the province of Saskatchewan or any other province?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I believe the statement of the Prime Minister on page 1405 of *Hansard* makes clear the answer of the government with regard to extension of the principle of providing help with respect to hydro power in other provinces in Canada.

Mr. Argue: In that case I wonder whether I can ask the minister if he can say when he expects an agreement will be reached with Saskatchewan; because I know Saskatchewan is very anxious to receive the same treatment.

Mr. Speaker: Order.