

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** When does he intend to present the budget or budgetary proposals to which he made reference at a press conference toward the end of July? He indicated that there would be a budget or budgetary proposals at this session of parliament and that would give him an opportunity to deal with the question of the relationship between the government and the Bank of Canada.

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, whatever is put before the house in that regard on behalf of the government will be done in due course, and the house, in accordance with the usual practice of ministers of finance as I have observed it in the past 12 years, will be notified in due course.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** May I ask the minister, will there be a budget at this session?

**Mr. Fleming:** Mr. Speaker, I tell my hon. friend what I told him on a previous occasion, that whatever is required in order to place properly before the house any recommendations or proposals of the government in this regard will be done in accordance with the practice of the house.

**Mr. Sinclair:** Straight evasion.

**HIGHWAYS****STEWART-CASSIAR, B.C.—SURVEY AS TO SOUTHERN TERMINUS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** I have a question I should like to ask the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Is it true that the survey made by the Department of Public Works into the Cassiar-Stewart road indicates that it is less costly to make the southern terminus of the road at Alice Arm than to make the southern terminus at Stewart and, if so, what is the difference in estimated cost?

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** I doubt if that is the kind of question that should be asked without notice. Has notice been given?

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** I should like to thank the hon. member for Skeena for giving me notice of this question. The survey made by the Department of Public Works as simply a preliminary reconnaissance survey, and any findings of that survey must be considered as tentative indications only

[Mr. McIlraith.]

and subject to confirmation or correction by detailed surveys that have not yet been made.

The preliminary reconnaissance survey referred to indicated that the use of Alice Arm as a southern terminus for the route might result in a saving of something in the region of \$3 million in the construction of the road itself. It also indicated that a southern terminus at Nass bay might be considered.

However, any savings in road construction costs could easily be counterbalanced by greater port construction costs or by engineering problems that could render development of good port facilities impractical. The final estimates of road costs and of harbour costs cannot be made until much more detailed surveys and studies are carried out on all phases of the project.

**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****GORDON COMMISSION—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF STUDIES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance if he would table the studies published by the royal commission on Canada's economic prospects. I think I should point out to the house that the preliminary report was tabled on January 10 of this year and the final report is in the course of preparation. Some 15 or 16 of the studies referred to in the preliminary report have now been printed, and I should like to ask that they be tabled.

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** My hon. friend was good enough to speak to me on this subject some days ago following his asking of a similar question in the house with respect to one particular study that had been made under the auspices of the royal commission to which he has referred. I made inquiries as to what had been the practice in times past with reference to the tabling in the house of studies made on behalf of royal commissions, and I was informed that it has not been the practice in times past to table such studies.

The only occasion I personally recall when copies of the studies were made available for distribution to hon. members was when a volume was prepared gathering together the various studies that had been made on behalf of the Massey royal commission on the arts, letters and sciences. That volume was made available to all members and distributed, I think, through the distribution office.

Apart from that case I have been informed that it has not been the practice for