

Inquiries of the Ministry

decision, will the minister say whether the department is planning to dispose of those armouries which have been classified as surplus to requirements?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Generally speaking this is the case, but I should point out that some of the armouries to which we are referring are rented. So in this particular case we can stop renting them.

Mr. Scott: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister consider giving the communities in which the armouries owned by the Department of National Defence are situated the first opportunity to procure these buildings?

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): These buildings would be transferred to the Crown Assets Corporation for disposal, and I think the regulations give the right of first refusal to the municipalities after the federal and provincial governments have first exercised that right.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received which is as follows:

Government House
Ottawa

December 19, 1969

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Right Hon. J. R. Cartwright, P.C., M.C., Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 19th day of December, at 12.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,
Louis-Frémont Trudeau,
Brigadier General,

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General.

Orders of the day.

Mr. Baldwin: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I believe the Minister of Finance is anxious to revert to motions in order to make a statement denying the tacit admission by the Minister without Portfolio, which appears at page 2143 of *Hansard*, that the Minister of Finance will have a budget surplus of \$850 million.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the point of order. The Minister without Portfolio did not say that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Mr. Scott.]

FISHERIES**SALTFISH MARKETING CORPORATION—ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO FISHERMEN**

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries relating to the introduction today of the legislation to establish the Canadian Saltfish Corporation.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member may be allowed to ask that question.

Mr. Lundrigan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should like the minister's answer to be on the record. In view of the fact that the minister did not produce until today the legislation on the saltfish marketing corporation and in view of the fact that the people who engage in this type of fishing had a complete failure this year and will not be able to take advantage of this legislation in 1970, can the minister say whether any form of assistance is planned to ensure that these people can continue to fish in 1970?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): I am not as pessimistic as the hon. member. I am convinced that those people who have traditionally been occupied in the saltfish industry in the years past will be able to take advantage of this new corporation and indeed, they are the ones who will benefit most from it in future years.

Mr. Lundrigan: Do I understand from the minister's answer that no form of special assistance is being planned other than the normal benefits which may accrue from this corporation?

Mr. Davis: We are looking at interim measures in a few cases.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS****REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE OF WHITE PAPER ON TAXATION REFORM**

The House resumed, from Thursday, December 18, consideration of the motion of Mr. Benson (for Mr. Macdonald, Rosedale):

That the white paper entitled *Proposals for Tax Reform* tabled in the House on November 7, 1969, be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, hon. members have alluded to what