

*Inquiries of the Ministry***FINANCE****TEXTILES—TABLING OF TARIFF BOARD REPORT
ON REFERENCE NO. 125**

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table copies in English and in French of the report which I received from the chairman of the tariff board relating to reference No. 125 on textiles. I am tabling also a transcript of the evidence presented to the board at its public hearings.

This report covers a miscellaneous group of tariff items relating primarily to textile products of jute, flax, hemp and other hard fibres. It is the eighth report to be presented by the board pursuant to the textile reference. Two further reports will be required to complete the series. They relate to coated fabrics and to hats and caps.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): I wonder whether the Prime Minister is in a position to give the house any information as to when the commission that has been set up to examine into unemployment insurance matters is likely to report.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have no definite information about that. I know that the chairman and those associated with him are devoting themselves most assiduously to the problem before them. However, I shall endeavour within the next few days to ascertain their target date, and will then inform the house.

POWER**COLUMBIA RIVER—INQUIRY AS TO CURRENT
NEGOTIATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice. Can the minister inform the house of any efforts the government has made since the adjournment to reach an agreement with the government of British Columbia with respect to the development of the Columbia river? Is he prepared to make a statement at this time as to the government's position in this stalemated situation?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his intention to ask this question, which,

[Mr. Hellyer.]

however, reached me only just before I came into the house, and did not contain the post-script which he has just added.

May I deal with it as he asked it. He asked whether I could inform the house of any efforts made to reach an agreement with the government of British Columbia on the Columbia river problem. As my hon. friend knows, it has not always been easy for me to establish contact with the premier of British Columbia; therefore I am necessarily forced to rely upon the statements I read in the press of that gentleman's intentions. Naturally enough, as my hon. friend will appreciate, we are assessing the implications of the position taken by the premier and the government of British Columbia, as that position is modified from day to day by further statements that the premier issues. The position of the government of Canada is being considered and I expect will be announced very shortly without any possibility of misinterpretation.

HOUSE OF COMMONS**REPORTED FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES RESPECTING
FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister received a report from the Minister of Justice on the transcript of evidence in connection with the Jean Talon hospital inquiry, and more particularly in connection with Senator Courtemanche? Has the Prime Minister any comment to make on the transcript, if he has received it?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have received the transcript, and an examination has been made of the statements that were made by witnesses on both sides. Having made that examination, and having been informed that the royal commission will report on September 30 in regard to the matters that came before it, I would suggest that the report of the royal commission should be awaited.

FINANCE**EDIBLE OILS—INQUIRY AS TO TARIFF BOARD
HEARINGS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. The minister may recall that in his budget speech of December 20, 1960, reference was made to the Customs Tariff and, in particular, to that part of it dealing with oil seeds and vegetable oil. The