

Inquiries of the Ministry

Prime Minister take them into consideration and bring some sense to the white paper on taxation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. It is supplementary to the question asked by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings. In view of the comments on the white paper made by the vice-chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, will the minister say whether we can anticipate that the far-ranging changes recommended by the vice-chairman will receive consideration by the government?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the recommendations made by the committee as a whole, consisting of members of all parties, will be considered seriously by the government.

Mr. Nowlan: I wish to direct a supplementary question to the hon. member for Etobicoke in his capacity pro tem as vice-chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs. Has the hon. member communicated his proposals to the Minister of Finance? If so, what has been the result?

Mr. Speaker: While the question is being pondered, perhaps the Chair will recognize another hon. member.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NUCLEAR TESTS BY FRANCE IN PACIFIC AREA**

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. What action is the Canadian government taking in connection with the series of nuclear tests within the atmosphere begun recently by France in the Pacific?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as a Pacific power we naturally share the concern expressed by a number of other countries in the Pacific region about the current series of French nuclear weapons tests. France has not, of course, adhered to the nuclear test ban. I take this opportunity to express the hope that France will nevertheless respect the objectives of this international treaty so widely supported by all mankind.

Mr. Baldwin: What about the Canadian disturbances in Australia?

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. Notwithstanding the Prime Minister's junket, does he think that we are as great a Pacific power now as we were before we closed down three legations in the Pacific area?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

LABOUR RELATIONS**WEST COAST TOWBOAT STRIKE—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON SAFETY REGULATIONS**

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to direct a question to the Minister of Transport, but since he is absent and since it is important I will direct it to the Acting Prime Minister. Inasmuch as many members representing British Columbia constituencies received telegrams this morning informing them that the Vancouver local of the International Woodworkers of America has more than 4,000 members out of work out of a total membership of 7,000 as a result of the towboat strike, will the Acting Prime Minister consider issuing an official statement relative to the early drafting of proper regulations on safety, as we are advised that such a statement of policy will go a long way toward resolving the dispute in British Columbia?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I also have received a copy of one of these representations. It is under consideration. I will have to reply to it, in the course of which I will be giving an answer and will let the House know.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the widespread economic dislocation which the towboat strike is causing and since neither the Minister of Labour nor the Minister of Transport, the two ministers mainly concerned, are present, may I ask the Acting Prime Minister whether he will undertake to have a statement made by the responsible minister tomorrow in view of the great number of injunctions which have been issued which could undoubtedly lead to trouble on the Pacific coast?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, this matter is under very urgent consideration. I gather that meetings are to be held tomorrow to discuss the question of safety regulations.