

I should like to direct it to the acting minister or the parliamentary secretary. In view of the announced protective wheat purchasing policy recently introduced in the United Kingdom, which may have an adverse effect on wheat shipments out of the port of Churchill because wheat is the only grain presently exported out of that port, will the minister confer with officials of the National Harbours Board to see if the necessary equipment can be installed at Churchill to handle coarse grains and oilseeds?

**Mr. Gérard Duquet (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** I will take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

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### CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

#### RETROACTIVITY OF SUGGESTED NEW BILL OF RIGHTS

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, last evening the Minister of Justice returned to the theme of a new bill of rights entrenched in the constitution. I wonder whether in contemplating this new bill of rights the minister can indicate to the House that it will have a retroactive aspect in the same manner as the bill introduced last fall respecting public order?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the assumption is wrong so I cannot answer the question.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, will the minister indicate whether in this bill of rights the government is now returning to the previously held position under English common law that there will be a presumption of innocence rather than a presumption of guilt as in the bill introduced earlier by the minister?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, the assumption is again wrong. We have always held the presumption of innocence as paramount.

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### NATIONAL DEFENCE

#### AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS TO EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL BELOW AGE 60

**Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. Since the government reorganization measure, Bill C-207, which was before us some time ago, anticipates superannuation after 30 years in the Public Service, has the government considered altering the Statute Law Amendment Act in order that supplementary benefits of 2 per cent to 42 per cent will be available to ex-service personnel of the Canadian forces below age 60?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** I would have to study the hon. member's question, Mr. Speaker.

### Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

#### POWER

#### PROPOSED JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—DISCUSSIONS WITH QUEBEC FINANCE MINISTER ON METHOD OF FINANCING

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Are there discussions going on at the present time between him and the Quebec authorities concerning the James Bay hydroelectric project and will the government agree to participate, financially as well as physically, in the development of this project?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance spoke yesterday about the financing of the project. As for me, I have not had any official discussions on the subject.

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[English]

#### FISHERIES

#### STEPS TO ENSURE THAT LEGITIMATE SALMON FISHERMEN RECEIVE LICENCES

**Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, but in his absence I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary who appropriately is wearing a salmon pink shirt. In view of the fact that the new salmon fishing regulations require that an applicant for a licence must produce evidence of having held a licence last year, and in view of the fact that fisheries officers advised applicants last year that only the crew leaders of salmon fishing boats required to be licensed, what steps is the minister willing to take to ensure that all legitimate salmon fishermen may be eligible for licences irrespective of whether they held one last year?

**Mr. Eymard Corbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, the salmon pink shirt I am wearing was made in my riding. The matter referred to by the hon. member is under active consideration, but there are appeal boards set up to deal with such matters.

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the new regulations announced by the department come into effect on May 15, will the minister's department immediately revise and review the regulations especially as they pertain to fishermen who may not receive licences now but who prepared for the fishing season by buying and manufacturing fishing gear during the winter of 1970 and now find themselves unable to use that fishing gear during this season? Will he immediately review the matter and clarify the position in the hope that these people will be allowed to prosecute salmon fishing during the 1971 season?

**Mr. Corbin:** Mr. Speaker, I should again like to advise the hon. member that this matter is under active consid-