

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, November 21, 1952

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT

REPORTS RESPECTING ALLEGED COMBINES

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I should like to table the report of the combines investigation commissioner in connection with an alleged combine in the distribution and the sale of bread and other bakery products in the Winnipeg area, and also the report of the combines investigation commissioner into an alleged combine in the manufacture, distribution and sale of fine papers.

(For complete list of departmental and other reports tabled, see *Votes and Proceedings*, No. 2, of November 21, 1952.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

RETURN OF MEMBER FOR ST. JOHN'S EAST

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I feel it would be appropriate at this time for me to mention the fact that a member whose very grave injuries made it seem unlikely that he would return to the house is back with us this afternoon. I am sure that in this case I can speak for all members when I say that we all cherish the friendship of one of the most lovable and amiable men whom any of us know. I am sure the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. Higgins) holds the affection and admiration of all members. I am certain that everyone here is very glad that he has recovered from injuries that at one time seemed extremely grave, and I am sure we are all overjoyed to see him looking as well as he does.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): May I say that I am sure we all join with the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming back our colleague from St. John's East.

IRRIGATION

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER—INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): I should like to ask the Prime Minister when

we may expect the final report of the commission inquiring into the South Saskatchewan river scheme.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have been quite as concerned about that as my hon. friend. I received from the secretary of the commission a letter dated the 19th of November, 1952, which will perhaps constitute the best answer I can give to the question the hon. member has asked me. The letter is addressed to the Prime Minister and reads as follows:

The commissioners instructed me some time ago to make arrangements for the printing of the report of the royal commission on the South Saskatchewan river project in advance of presentation of it to the government. There has been some delay in printing which is not surprising in view of the commission's decision to include considerable pertinent material in its report. A number of rather lengthy submissions to the commission are being included as an appendix to the report. This will include the submissions of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

I have been in touch with the department of public printing today, and although much work has already been done I am informed that completion of printing, of preparation of the necessary maps and of bookbinding cannot be counted upon until the middle of December or later. As we have noticed in the press that you are planning to attend the commonwealth conference in London, we are planning to present the report to you as soon as possible after your return.

I had been asked if I wished the government to have the report before it was made available to the public and I said that I thought not. I thought there were so many interested in this report that it would be desirable to have it ready for distribution to the public as soon as it was finally presented as the commission's report to the government.

Mr. Coldwell: Then we may expect it before the house adjourns for Christmas?

Mr. St. Laurent: I would be quite as disappointed as my hon. friend if we did not get it before Christmas because we have constantly impressed upon the commission that we are anxious to have it with the greatest possible dispatch.

TAXATION

INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE REDUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George H. Hees (Broadview): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. Will the minister advise the house if the government intends to bring in a new