

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Stanfield: I ask the Acting Prime Minister whether, instead of expressing gratitude and pious wishes, the government will get busy and take advantage of an opportunity that might lead to some fruitful results?

pollution, is the government of Canada presently giving any consideration to a similar proposal?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): It is an interesting way of raising additional revenue, but it is not presently being considered by the federal government.

SHIPBUILDING**PUBLICATION OF ROBERTSON INQUIRY REPORT
—ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY**

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Has the government received the report of the Robertson inquiry into a long-term maritime policy for Canada and, if so, what will be done with the report? Will it be published or will the minister be making at least a quick review of it in Parliament before the session is over?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I received the report, which is 600 pages long, last Tuesday. The committee presented it to the Canadian Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing Association the next day. This is a report of the committee and the committee is free to do what it wants with it. I understand that copies are now available or will be made available soon to the Parliamentary Library.

Mr. Bell: In view of the statement made yesterday by the chairman of the Canadian Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing Association of Canada that this industry has had its worst year since 1940, will the minister do everything he can to hurry some relief to the industry?

Mr. Pepin: Yes, indeed, Mr. Speaker, but I think if my hon. friend reads the 600-page report he will realize very soon that one of the major facts that comes out of the report is that the committee while making important suggestions, does not disagree with the fundamental position taken by the government in respect of shipbuilding, specially with respect to subsidies.

POLLUTION**PROPOSED U.S. TAX ON LEADED GASOLINE—
CANADIAN POSITION**

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the proposal made in the United States by President Nixon to impose a tax on leaded gasoline to help in the fight against

HOUSING**ALLEGED FEDERAL DELAY IN APPROVING
PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS**

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): My question is for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of housing. I should like to ask him whether, in light of the claim of the chairman of the Ontario Housing Corporation that a substantial failure in achieving the targets for public housing in the metropolitan area can be attributed to a slowdown by the federal government in approving projects, the minister will assure the House that the situation will be remedied immediately in view of the urgent need for public housing in that area?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): I dispute the premise on which the remarks of the chairman of the Ontario Housing Corporation were based because, to the best of my knowledge—and I have looked into it—there has not been any inordinate delay in approving any projects brought forward. There have been discussions on occasions about density and amenities within projects recommended by the OHC, but amicable settlements have been made in each case. I think this is a red herring which has been brought into the picture based on some public housing fund freezing about a year and a half ago. I do not know how long they can continue to hide behind that one.

POLLUTION**LAKE ST. CLAIR—COMPENSATION TO SEINE
FISHERMEN AND CAMP OPERATORS BE-
CAUSE OF BAN ON FISHING**

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. In view of the question I asked him regarding federal compensation to those affected by the ban on fishing in Lake St. Clair and his answer that the fishermen were already paid, may I now ask the minister when the government's financial commitment to the seine fishermen and camp operators in that area will be fulfilled?