

The Address—Mr. S. Fleming

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the work of taking out of the original report that information which is of a commercial character and would have prejudiced the position of T.C.A. is almost completed. I hope the report, with the confidential, commercial information omitted from it can be made public very, very shortly, not only to the government of Manitoba but to the public.

Mr. Knowles: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Have assurances been given to Premier Roblin that after the government of Manitoba has studied the report, consideration will be given to the matter of a public inquiry into matters relating to the retention of the T.C.A. base at Winnipeg?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I have written Premier Roblin on this subject, but I am not exactly sure what should be the nature of my statement on this important subject. I had better look into it.

FISHERIES**BRITISH COLUMBIA—PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT COMMITTEE HELD IN CAMERA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. In respect to the federal-provincial committee on wages and price disputes in the British Columbia fishing industry, I would like to know whether the committee is under instruction from one or both governments to hold their hearings in camera. If so, would the minister explain to the house the reason such instructions have been given to the committee?

Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries): Yes, Mr. Speaker; both governments have instructed this committee to hold its hearings in camera. It is a committee established to seek information in order to take adequate measures to solve a very important problem in connection with the fisheries industry in British Columbia, and we felt that in order to get full information it was better to receive such information in camera from different parties.

Mr. Barnett: May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. What will be done with this information after the committee has secured it through its hearings?

Mr. Robichaud: We will have to wait until we receive the report from the committee before taking a decision on what will be done at that time.

Mr. Barnett: Will the report of the committee be published, or made public to the members of the house and the interested parties concerned?

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to make a decision on that matter at this time. It is most probable that when the report is received consideration will be given by the two governments, the federal government and the government of British Columbia, to making the report public.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed, from Friday, February 28, consideration of the motion of Mr. Jean-Pierre Cote (Longueuil) for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. Stuart A. Fleming (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, when I spoke before the adjournment of the house on Friday evening I endeavoured to suggest that we in Canada have become obsessed with division; that we are tearing out our hearts and rending the nation with selfish concerns, with fears of the ascendancy of one region over another or the supposed subservience of some Canadians to other Canadians. We are totally neglecting the magnificence of the Canadian concept, of a nation strong enough to encompass vast divergences of geography and people as well as the various and best ideals of men.

Under the influence of divisive forces we are permitting ourselves to become destructively preoccupied with our differences. Instead of glorying in these differences and taking pride in them as evidence of our diversity, we are permitting them to be used as evidence of division. Such division can only lead to disintegration.

Our principal objective ought to be to demonstrate that in our diversity we are devoted to the Canadian concept, to Canada as a nation and as an ideal; a nation compounded of many elements and one high purpose; a nation devoted to the liberty of the individual and the unity of all its people—all its people in all their diversity. The language to which each of us is committed by birth or circumstance is of consequence as a matter of personal pride, a pride for which there is a place in our nationhood. The purpose, the ideal, the justification we have as Canadians must transcend race and language but encompass both. Unless we are capable of rising to that concept we shall not survive as a nation, and we shall not deserve survival.