

Inquiries of the Ministry

absolutely impossible for them to do so, perhaps we can arrange for a hearing on the site. Nevertheless, I would prefer the hearings to be held on neutral grounds such as the city of Sydney.

[English]

SHIPPING**WEST COAST TOWBOATS—MANNING AND SAFETY REGULATIONS**

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. Since there has apparently been agreement between the parties involved regarding new proposals for manning and safety in the British Columbia towboat industry, is the minister planning to make these proposals public, as he indicated earlier?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I expect to do that tomorrow.

[Translation]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**INFLATION—PROVINCIAL CO-OPERATION IN APPLICATION OF SIX PER CENT WAGE INCREASE GUIDELINE**

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Having stated yesterday that the government supported the move of the Prices and Incomes Commission to set a limit of 6 per cent per year on wage increases and that the provinces have recognized the merits of that principle, can the minister tell us how the federal government intends to enforce that wage freeze if the provincial governments refuse to deal severely with those who will grant higher wage increases, as the Ontario government is doing at the present time?

[English]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that any of the provincial governments have refused to co-operate with the wage guidelines policy put forward by Dr. Young.

AGRICULTURE**FARM MACHINERY—IMPLEMENTATION OF BARBER COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I have a question for the Minister

[Mr. Chrétien.]

of Agriculture. Would he make a statement on motions some time before the House recesses on June 26 indicating what progress the government has made with respect to the implementation of the various recommendations of the Barber Commission report in connection with high farm machinery costs and the escalating prices of farm machinery repairs?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): As I have pointed out on a number of occasions, the final report of the Barber Commission has not yet been submitted, and part of it will include an inquiry into the costs of both repair parts and services. Inasmuch as we have not received it yet—and I am not sure we will receive it by the end of this session—it would be difficult for me to give an undertaking that I would make a statement on the matter.

FINANCE**REMOVAL OF SALES TAX ON BUILDING MATERIALS**

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): My question is for the Minister of Finance. In light of the 40 per cent decline in the construction industry this year, an industry which could provide many jobs, is the government considering the removal of the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials?

Mr. Speaker: This question was asked yesterday. Unless there is a change since yesterday, I would not think the question would be in order today.

Mr. McCleave: Perhaps I could phrase my question in this way: has the Minister of Finance carried out any studies weighing the benefits of having people earning salaries subject to income tax against the disadvantages of having an industry in a slump and not able to pay the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials?

Mr. Speaker: The supplementary question in its new form seems to be rather argumentative, but the minister might be allowed to reply.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we continuously look at what is happening in the economy. I should like to indicate, as I did yesterday, that if the government makes a change in its fiscal policy with respect to tax rates this would be announced in the House.