

Speaker, I am not ready to answer. I was supposed to have the visit of the Quebec Minister of Tourism today, but he has informed me that he cannot come to Ottawa before tomorrow morning.

[English]

### COMBINES

#### POSSIBILITY OF PROSECUTION FOLLOWING AFFILIATION OF CANADIAN AND U.S. INVESTMENT CORPORATIONS

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of Finance whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith Incorporated, the largest investment house in the United States, and the Royal Securities Corporation of Canada have agreed to affiliate. I ask him whether this will not place or tend to place the outflow of Canadian funds under the domination of the United States, and what action the Canadian government is taking in this connection. He will recall some of the statements made by Mr. Walter Gordon, formerly minister of finance.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** May I say in answer to the first part of the question, yes, I am aware; in answer to the second part of the question, no; in answer to the third part of the question, the matter is indeed being considered.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, in that case I should like to communicate with another minister, namely the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Will the alleged combine that will result be made the subject of any investigation by the department to ensure that Canada's interest will be protected, rather than left to the mercies of a powerful United States corporation?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the right hon. gentleman knows, having been prime minister, that it is traditional policy not to announce matters which the combines investigation branch is investigating.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That is just not so, if I may say so. I ask the minister: Is it being investigated or are we not to be protected?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I rise on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Before the right hon. gentleman does so, may I suggest that there should not be a debate between the minister and the right hon. gentleman as to what is the government policy in such circumstances.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** My point is that the regard for truth in the statement made by the minister is as small as the benefit which the measure that he discussed today in the house will bring to the Canadian people.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is of course neither a point of order nor a question of privilege.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Just a fact, Mr. Speaker.

### WATER RESOURCES

#### LONG HARBOUR, NFLD.—INVESTIGATION OF WATER POLLUTION

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister, or have his officials, had an opportunity to study the cause of so many fish dying in Long Harbour and, if so, is there any evidence to indicate that the phosphorous wash from the British-owned Electric Reduction Company (Canada) Limited is the cause?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries):** Certainly departmental officials and members of the Fisheries Research Board have been studying this situation intensively. There is an extensive fish kill in the general vicinity of the plant, and the red herring problem is indicative of pollution by phosphorous. However the cause of this fish kill has yet to be determined with finality.

**Mr. Crouse:** In view of the statement in *Time* magazine of May 16 that the inshore fishery has been decimated—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has to ask a question directly and cannot use statements in newspapers or magazines as the basis for his question.

**Mr. Crouse:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister issue a statement immediately giving the true facts about the pollution which has caused the death of these fish, and explain what efforts his department is making to clean up this situation?