

Inquiries of the Ministry

(Text):

NATIONAL REVENUECOLLECTION OF INCOME TAX FROM
B.C. ELECTRIC COMPANY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. R. Garland (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra asked me two questions regarding possible courses of action by the Department of National Revenue with respect to B.C. Electric Company. I am afraid I can only say that our department understands an appeal will be made from this judgment to the British Columbia court of appeal, and the tax situation will have to await the outcome of that appeal.

INCOME TAXINQUIRY AS TO PROVISIONS OF
AMENDING LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to either the house leader or the Acting Minister of Finance. My question relates to the status of that part of the budget represented in amendments to the Income Tax Act. As the government knows, on July 23 the Minister of Finance said the bill to amend the Income Tax Act would be introduced momentarily. We have not seen it yet. I am not asking for a debate today, obviously; but should we not have the bill and have first reading so we will know before the recess what are the statutory changes that are being made?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I think I would prefer to make inquiries of the department and give an answer later this day, which I undertake to do.

POWERCOLUMBIA RIVER—REFERENCE OF TREATY
TO HOUSE COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. V. Pugh (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the Prime Minister concerning the Columbia river treaty. Should agreements on the Columbia be reached with the province of British Columbia during the recess, will the committee on external affairs be called to consider the agreement, so that no delay may occur in starting the project?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can give my hon. friend the assurance that the committee on external affairs will be called as soon as the treaty can be submitted to it. That will require,

[Mr. Chevrier.]

of course, signature by the United States as well as agreement with the government of British Columbia.

Mr. Pugh: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Should this agreement arise during the recess, will the committee be called back?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, a committee cannot sit unless the house is in session—

Some hon. Members: Oh?

Mr. Pearson:—and the house will resume in September.

Mr. Knowles: Order.

Mr. Pearson: Well, unless the house is sitting.

Mr. Pugh: Then might the house be recalled to consider this treaty?

Mr. Pearson: That is a different question, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member suggests that if the changes in this treaty are agreed on with the United States and all the preliminaries have been cleared away, the House of Commons should be asked to resume its sittings in order to consider the treaty. That is another matter, and I will give consideration to it in the light of developments.

(Translation):

TRADE

RED CHINA—SUGGESTED CHANGE IN POLICY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Lake St. John): Mr. Speaker, considering the statement made last night by the President of the United States to the effect that China is becoming the greatest threat to world peace, can the Prime Minister inform the house whether the government intends to reconsider its trade policy with that possible world enemy?

(Text):

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): The trade policy, in so far as mainland, communist China is concerned, is governed by an arrangement made with our allies. This arrangement, which has been accepted by this government, prevents trading with communist China in all matters of any strategic importance. At the moment there is no intention of changing that policy.

(Translation):

BUTTER—POSSIBLE SALES TO UNITED KINGDOM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Clement Vincent (Nicolet-Yamaska): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Could he tell the house whether his department has completed its research on the possible selling of butter to Great Britain and, if in the affirmative, could the minister table a report on that research,