

Inquiries of the Ministry

Staff Relations Board, namely June 16. If he has, will he say what was the cause of this lengthy delay and whether such delays are to be considered normal, to use his adjective?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, the explanation is that Mr. Martin's appointment as chief adjudicator ended on April 30, 1969. Some drafting and editing of the report was necessary after that date, but it was thought he should sign the report on April 30 to correspond with his term of office.

Mr. Macquarrie: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the minister understands the time sequence that I have in mind. I am interested in what happened between April 30 and June 16.

Mr. Richardson: I can only answer for the Public Service Staff Relations Board. As I explained to the house recently, the board received the chief adjudicator's report on June 16 and made a distribution of the report on July 4. I have explained that this is a normal period of time. I cannot go beyond my responsibility, which is to explain the action of the board.

Mr. Macquarrie: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister see that the report is tabled so that the members of the house who have been denied the chance to discuss it may at least have the privilege of reading it?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, I believe the President of the Privy Council has been considering that question, which was asked recently.

Mr. Fairweather: Then we will never see it.

Mr. Richardson: If there is to be a tabling of the report, it will be announced in due course.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): On a point of order, may I with your permission, Mr. Speaker, point out to the minister that the document is a public document. The hon. member for Hillsborough asked that the minister be kind enough to put a copy on the table so that everyone may see it. It is not within the government's ambit to withhold the report; it is a public document which anyone can obtain by going to the Public Service Staff Relations Board. The minister is being asked to give us an opportunity to read the report.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I thought the [Mr. Macquarrie.]

hon. member was referring to the suggestion that there be a motion for the subject matter to be referred to the committee. I will undertake to get copies and table them.

WATER RESOURCES**DIVERSION OF WATER FROM HUDSON AND JAMES BAYS**

Mr. B. Keith Penner (Thunder Bay): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Is it the policy of this government to proceed with certain plans and proposals for the extensive exporting of fresh water to the United States, particularly into the Great Lakes basin, by means of a northern Ontario water diversion scheme?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the question asked by the hon. member is of such wide scope that it should be replied to by way of a statement on motions. If the hon. member thinks this matter should be discussed earlier, I would be pleased to see that the question is given priority for consideration at the time of adjournment.

FINANCE**IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS WITHOUT REGARD FOR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS—CREDIT IN SLOW GROWTH AREAS**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, in light of the disclosure by the Bank of Canada that chartered banks are rapidly reducing their lending, and that loans were off \$20 million in one week alone, does the government intend to impose this tight money situation on all regions of the country equally, regardless of their economic condition?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I believe I answered this question yesterday. Both the Governor of the Bank of Canada and I have—

Mr. Crouse: You weren't here yesterday.

Mr. Benson: I am sorry, the day before yesterday. Both the Governor of the Bank of Canada and I urged the banks, which have to ration credit, not to do so in areas of high unemployment or areas of development in Canada, and also not, where possible, to small businesses which depend almost entirely on bank borrowings for their working capital.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask