

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Howard (Skeena): I wonder whether I might be permitted a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In the light of the situation which existed over the weekend, and the hunger strike which took place on another occasion at the penitentiary about a year ago as well as the general tension which has existed in that institution for a period of a year and a half, would the minister be prepared to have a thorough inquiry conducted into the administrative competence of the officials of this penitentiary in an effort to see what might be done to alleviate the situation and ensure that in the future some respect will be paid to the officers employed there as well as the inmates in the institution?

Mr. McIlraith: Without admitting all the premises of the hon. member's question, I should point out that two boards of inquiry are presently dealing with matters at the penitentiary. One inquiry relates to the escape of the 11 inmates last week and the other relates to the fire and damage consequent on it. It would be premature to take a firm position on the question of a commission of inquiry to examine into the affairs of the institution until the reports of those two boards are received; the matter will be considered then.

* * *

POWER

PROPOSED FLOODING OF SKAGIT RIVER VALLEY—
DISCUSSION WITH UNITED STATES
AUTHORITIES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I am sorry to bother the Prime Minister, but I should like to ask him whether his government has taken any steps to open discussions with U.S. authorities on the question of the flooding of the Skagit Valley in British Columbia, a matter which I think is of great interest to some of his colleagues as well as to many others?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): This matter is receiving urgent attention from the government.

Mr. Stanfield: May I ask the question again, since the minister seems to be a little hard of hearing. Have any steps been taken to get the United States authorities to open discussions on the question of the flooding of the Skagit Valley.

Mr. Davis: I think the matter at issue is an internal matter for Canada and one that we must resolve ourselves.

PROPOSED FLOODING OF SKAGIT RIVER VALLEY—
NECESSITY FOR CANADIAN PERMIT

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I ask the minister if it has been finally established whether or not the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources must grant a permit to the Seattle Light Com-

[Mr. McIlraith.]

pany before this valley can be flooded, as was suggested by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in a letter which he sent to the hon. member for Fraser Valley West? Has that point been established so that we may know where the responsibility lies, and with whom the decision will lie, with respect to proceeding with the flooding of this valley?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): This matter is also under active consideration by the legal authorities here in Ottawa.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Since this consideration has been going on now for some ten months, may I ask the minister when we can expect the government to reach a decision with respect to who has the authority to grant permission and what action the government is going to take when it is decided whether or not a permit can be granted?

Mr. Davis: My answer to the question is, shortly. However, I should point out to the hon. member that the project is running into several new obstacles on the U.S. side and that we have more time to consider our course of action.

Mr. Stanfield: When the minister suggested that this was a problem that had to be worked out within Canada, was he endorsing the view attributed to the Prime Minister regarding the way in which the people of British Columbia had to solve the problem, or does he have something else in mind?

* * *

[Translation]

AIRPORTS

STE. SCHOLASTIQUE—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN BUILDING NEW
HIGHWAY FROM HULL

Mr. Gaston Clermont (Gatineau): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

As the construction of a new road is contemplated between Hull and the new international airport at Ste. Scholastique, would he tell us if the Quebec authorities have asked for the financial assistance of the federal government? If so, to what extent?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

NEGOTIATIONS ON SALE OF ARMS TO FRANCE AND
PROVISION OF SUMMER FLEET BASE

Mr. J. M. Forrestal (Dartmouth-Halifax East): My question is directed to the Prime Minister. Perhaps he might be able to enlighten us a little regarding some