

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): As a further supplementary is it the intention of the minister to introduce such legislation at the present session?

Mr. Davis: I cannot answer that question definitely, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Before he releases the maps showing the co-ordinates, would the minister take the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry into his confidence, perhaps at an in camera session, so that a discussion can take place on this very important matter?

Mr. Davis: I will certainly consider that, Mr. Speaker, but I think that the co-ordinates will be obvious to the hon. member as ones which are defined by our geography, and they are not a matter for dispute from a policy point of view.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): In view of the importance of this matter and its acceptance internationally, what steps is the government taking to have another Law of the Sea Conference convened in order to obtain some agreement with regard to these measures?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would prefer if this question were directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

TRANSPORT**BORDEN-TORMENTINE FERRY RATES**

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Minister of Transport which relates to an answer the former Minister of Transport gave on Wednesday. I refer to the government's decision that, in principle, it will support an increase in ferry rates for Canadian National Ferries crossing to Prince Edward Island. Can the Minister inform the house whether there has been consultation with the government of Prince Edward Island on this matter and whether that government agreed to such a potential increase in the ferry rates?

Hon. James Richardson (Acting Minister of Housing): Mr. Speaker, as the minister stated recently in the house, the decision has been taken in principle to increase the rates, but the detail of the rate structure has not yet been determined. There has been consultation.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Before a final decision is taken will the minister assure the house that interested parties will have an opportunity to make representations on this vital matter affecting transportation to and from Prince Edward Island?

Mr. Richardson: There have been many representations, Mr. Speaker, and there has been that opportunity.

[Later:]

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I also wish to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Transport with reference to the dismal decision regarding the ferry rates in Prince Edward Island. If the rates have not been determined, can he advise the house what time the new impost will become effective?

Hon. James Richardson (Acting Minister of Housing): No, Mr. Speaker. Both the actual rate structure and the timing of its implementation are being considered.

INCOME TAX**LATE FILINGS FROM DELAYED MAIL DELIVERY**

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. Will allowance be made for the late filing of income tax returns owing to the deterioration of postal service?

FARM MACHINERY**POSSIBILITY OF PRICE FIXING**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has he asked the royal commission on farm machinery to look into the circumstances under which a major farm machinery company offered in an advertisement to cut tractor prices for a limited period, in order to meet the lower cost of tractors being imported from England? Will he initiate an investigation into the possibility of the existence of price fixing in the farm machinery industry?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that Dr. Barber has already taken this into account. However, I will undertake to make sure that the hon. member's representations are conveyed to the chairman of the commission.