

approaches in this field as well as any negative steps that may be necessary at this moment.

WATER RESOURCES

OTTAWA RIVER—BOARD TO STUDY STORAGE AND FLOW REGULATION

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, in the latter part of 1957 the dominion government approached the governments of Ontario and Quebec to inquire whether they would join in a study of the existing storages on the Ottawa river and the possibilities which these afford for regulating the flows of these waters in conjunction with those of the upper St. Lawrence for the benefit of all interests affected.

In making this proposal the federal government indicated that such an engineering study would assure that full attention would be given to all navigation, power and riparian interests on the Ottawa river in Quebec and Ontario in a manner consistent with the regulation of the outflows of the international section of the St. Lawrence river. The latter are, as hon. members know, under the jurisdiction of the international joint commission.

I am pleased to inform the house that the governments of Canada, Ontario and Quebec have agreed to establish a three-man technical board to be known as the Ottawa river engineering board to study the storage and regulation possibilities in the Ottawa river basin from the viewpoint of all the interests affected. The federal member of the board will be Mr. T. M. Patterson, director of the water resources branch of my department. Ontario and Quebec members will be designated by those provinces.

The first assignment of the board will be to submit to ministers for approval terms of reference covering the study. It is of course understood that arrangements will be made by my department to ensure adequate and full discussion with representatives of interested federal departments and agencies.

STANDING ORDERS

CONCURRENCE IN EIGHTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. N. L. Spencer (for Miss Aitken) moved that the eighth report of the standing committee on standing orders, presented to the house on Thursday, March 23, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Railway Act RAILWAY ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING TRANSPORTATION OF MEMBERS' FAMILIES

Mr. J. S. Speakman (Wetaskiwin) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-79, to amend the Railway Act.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Speakman: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the proposed amendment is as follows. Section 351 of the Railway Act now provides that members of the Senate and the House of Commons of Canada are entitled to free transportation, with their baggage, on all railway lines in Canada. The amendment will add to section 351, following the word "Canada", the words:

—and dependent members of their families.

The new section 351 will then read:

Members of the Senate and the House of Commons of Canada, together with dependent members of their families, with their baggage...

—are entitled to free transportation on all railway lines in Canada. Such an amendment will do away with the present necessity of members asking each time for rail transportation for dependent members of their families, and will allow for provision of a card to these dependent members of families similar to that now furnished to members of the other place and members of the House of Commons.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

FISHERIES

STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER RESPECTING BILL NO. C-76

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the house would permit me to call attention to an omission or error of the Chair and ask for the indulgence of the house. It arose in a similar circumstance, where an hon. member had risen to ask leave to introduce a bill, namely on Wednesday, March 22, when Bill No. C-76 was given first reading, just as we have given first reading at this moment to another bill.

If I had performed my duty at that time I should have called the attention of the house to the fact—which I did not actually know, but I should have known, in my responsibility for the form in which matters come before this house—that the bill is designed to do only one thing; that is, to repeal and re-enact the Fisheries Act. In other words, it does not propose any legislation but it is simply a repeal and re-enactment of a statute now on the books, and accomplishes nothing whatever in a legislative way.