

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, each year we participate in a number of fairs which we select on the basis of the benefits they could bring to Canada. In the last few weeks I have announced a new program, as the hon. member knows under which my department will pay 50 per cent of the costs of single companies which participate in fairs in which the Canadian government does not take part. This should encourage those companies which are interested in going to specialized fairs.

\* \* \*

**EXPLOSIVES ACT****SUGGEST DEFERRAL OF AMENDING BILL UNTIL NEXT SESSION IN LIGHT OF OPPOSITION BY CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who ought to be present, according to the roster, but is absent except in spirit. In view of the legislative program in general now before the House and the strong opposition that has been voiced by organizations such as the Winnipeg Game and Fish Association and the Manitoba Wildlife Association, as well as by Mr. Murray McMaster, president of the 16,000 member Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation to Bill C-7 amending the Explosives Act, would the Acting Prime Minister suggest to the minister that, in view of the strong opposition of at least 35,000 sportsmen on the Prairies to this bill which they would consider to be an infringement upon their rights as free citizens and sportsmen, this bill might be put off until the next session of a new parliament.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Acting Prime Minister may, of course, reply to the question, but I take the liberty of bringing to the attention of the right hon. member and of hon. members that the question deals, of course, with a bill now before the House which has received and is receiving consideration. This should not preclude the Acting Prime Minister from replying to the hon. gentleman's question.

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I would say that the right hon. member has the capacity for making very impressive representations, and this one will be taken into account as well.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot pass that up without saying that the hon. gentleman has proven that he makes a very good Acting Prime Minister.

\* \* \*

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS****STEPS TO PROTECT THOMPSON AND FRASER RIVER VALLEYS FROM FLOOD THREAT**

**Mr. Len Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. In view of the very serious threat of floods in the Fraser and Thompson River valleys—snowpacks indicate potentially

worse floods than have occurred at any time since records have been kept—can the minister advise the House whether he is watching the situation and whether his department and/or other government departments are ready to take any necessary action?

**Mr. Baldwin:** Of course the government is ready. It will pass a bill.

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that our water management people are keeping an eye on the situation and that we are in close contact with the provincial government. I might also add that the runoff situation is not necessarily as formidable as the hon. member has suggested. Much will depend on temperatures, winds, etc. over the next few weeks.

**ADEQUACY OF FLOOD PREVENTION MEASURES IN LOWER FRASER RIVER VALLEY**

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of the Environment. Can he say whether he is satisfied with flood prevention measures so far taken, particularly as they affect the lower part of the Fraser River and Fraser Valley?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member knows there is some procedural difficulty in a question merely asking a minister whether he is satisfied with the status of a situation. The minister will be allowed to reply, but I do not really think that this is a proper form of questioning.

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, we are not entirely satisfied. There is a diking program under way which will not be completed for several years. Until it is complete we will not have an adequate insurance policy to cover flooding in the lower Fraser Valley. We are, however, working closely with the province. We have contacted the provincial authorities with regard to an imminent flood. Their answer really is: Don't call us; we will call you if we are in difficulty.

\* \* \*

**NATIONAL REVENUE****REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE DUMPING BY U.S. FIRM SELLING SALT IN CANADA**

**Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Inasmuch as the Department of Supply and Services awarded a salt contract to an American firm in preference to awarding it to Canadian suppliers, and as the price lists of the American salt company which received the contract indicate that the company is offering salt for sale in Canada at prices which constitute dumping, will the minister cause an inquiry to be made into whether the said salt supplying company is guilty of dumping and whether the Department of Supply and Services purchased American salt in preference to Canadian salt at prices which constitute dumping?