

Inquiries of the Ministry

House involving the business of Privy Council. If the Prime Minister feels it is appropriate to say more I am sure he will be happy to do so.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

An hon. Member: He is right in line—yes, daddy.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I was perfectly aware of some of the things the minister has said, but I do not appreciate his saying them in answer to the question, which was rather carefully worded. I did not ask him to tell me what happened in the Privy Council. I asked him whether he has completed the study and whether he has already presented recommendations to cabinet. I am not asking him what the recommendations were, what the conclusions were of what happened in cabinet; I just want to know whether it was done.

Mr. Gray: Mr. Speaker, even though I do not appreciate the form of the hon. member's question, I will attempt to give him a further answer. I think I can say there will be no problem in meeting the date that the Prime Minister mentioned in the House.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**POSSIBLE WORK STOPPAGE BY PEACE BRIDGE CUSTOMS OFFICERS**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue. In view of the statement by government customs officers that there is a dispute over holiday work schedules which could stop all traffic at the Peace Bridge this Easter weekend, I should like to ask the minister what steps he has taken to prevent customs officers from walking off their jobs at the Peace Bridge, leaving everything in chaos?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, officials of my department and of the Treasury Board as well as representatives of the Public Service Alliance of Canada will meet later this afternoon in order to find a solution to that problem.

[*English*]

POLLUTION**MERCURY CONTAMINATION OF FISH IN LAKES ERIE AND ST. CLAIR**

Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the [Mr. Gray.]

Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Has he been made aware of reported mercury contamination of certain types of fish in Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie and their tributaries? If so, is the contamination level high enough to be dangerous to humans, and has the source of the contamination been found?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): The very brief answer is yes, Mr. Speaker. We have received an official report from the Ontario Research Foundation that there is mercury in certain species of fish, notably pickerel, in Lake St. Clair, and that the level of mercury is unacceptable in so far as human consumption is concerned. We have moved immediately to ban the export of these fish since all of it was going to the United States. We have determined two sources, both of them chlor-alkali plants on the Canadian side in the vicinity of Sarnia. One has finished its conversion program and the other is in the process of correcting its cleanup procedures.

PHOSPHATE DETERGENTS—INVESTIGATION OF NTA

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, this is a supplementary question—you might call it related; I do not know—to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. In view of the widespread public concern to get phosphates in detergents replaced by a non-polluting substance, would the minister make an early statement on motions about preliminary findings of the Fisheries Research Board as to the possibilities of sodium nitrilo tri-acetate, better known as NTA?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest the question is not supplementary and that it is only distantly related. Perhaps the minister might indicate whether he is prepared to make such a statement.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, we can make information along these lines available at a very early date.

SPORTS**MONTREAL BID FOR 1976 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES**

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister without Portfolio responsible for housing a question concerning the bid of the city of Montreal for the 1976 summer Olympic games. Would he please indicate to the House