

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I have not anything to learn from the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Chevrier: Yes, you have.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I have not seen the newspaper report to which the hon. gentleman has referred. I will, of course, look at it. I attempt to keep in contact with what is done in the treasury board, but I do not profess to be in contact with every decision of every government board and every government department.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Treasury board comes under you, and you should know.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): If it is something falling under the responsibility of the Minister of Finance, the hon. member can be assured that the Minister of Finance will be prepared to take his proper responsibility in that regard.

TRANSPORT**RADIO OPERATORS—SUGGESTED FAILURE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Can the minister tell the house why his technical assistance program has not resulted in the training of sufficient radio operators to meet the demands of the Department of Transport?

Mr. Graffey: That is a statement not a question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's question assumes a fact and asks for argument under it. I do not think the hon. member's question is within the proper scope of oral questions. If he has a matter of fact to inquire into I will permit him to do so.

Mr. Hellyer: On the point of order which you have raised, Mr. Speaker, may I say that it is not an assumption of fact. It is based on a fact which was given here by the government in answer to a starred question, the fact being that advertisements for radio operators had to be placed in the United Kingdom because there were not sufficient available here after advertisements had been issued for them.

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me the hon. member's question still asks for an expression of opinion on a set of facts which he asserts, and in that sense is likely to introduce an argument rather than to elicit information.

Mr. Hellyer: I want to know the reason.

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the hon. member for Timmins.

[Mr. Chevrier.]

FLOODS**TIMMINS, ONT.—REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. W. Martin (Timmins): I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the severe flooding in Mount Joy township near Timmins, which has caused the Red Cross to declare it an emergency area, and in view of the fact that over 300 families have had to be evacuated from flooded homes, can the Acting Prime Minister say whether the government is giving consideration to some financial assistance, in conjunction with provincial and local authorities, for the maintenance and rehabilitation of the victims of this unfortunate disaster?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Acting Prime Minister): I am sure all members of the house have learned with a great deal of regret of this disaster in the Timmins area, and would wish to have sympathy extended to the people who are suffering. The regular course to follow in such cases where there is a national disaster is for the province to make an application. Of course, if such an application were made very careful consideration would be given to a request made by the province.

[Later:]

Mr. Martin (Timmins): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. In view of the imminent further danger of a major disaster if dams should give way on the Mattagami river above Timmins, could the minister say whether his department is prepared to supply assistance promptly to the area?

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the department would be prepared to provide assistance if a request came through the normal channel, which would be from the provincial government to the general officer commanding the area who is located at Oakville and who has the necessary resources available to render such assistance.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS**WINDSOR, ONT.—INQUIRY AS TO DELAY IN COMPLETION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. N. L. Spencer (Essex West): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. There has been a delay in the completion of the public building at Windsor, and I am inquiring of the minister whether he is aware of this delay and whether he can give the house the reason for it?