

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

the subject of referrals to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections. I hesitate to suggest that to the hon. member. I think perhaps his remedy at this time might be to ask the question a third time or seek to have the matter debated. Perhaps there might be some way to clarify the difficulty. But I do not think it would be in order to send this kind of question to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. It seems to me there should be a more effective way to clear up the very legitimate and evident difficulties which the hon. member has met. Perhaps we could have a conversation about it within the next few days and we might be able to find some way in which the matter might be cleared up other than by having this grievance referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

• (2:10 p.m.)

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS****PROCEDURE AND ORGANIZATION****FURTHER NOTICE OF IMPOSITION OF CLOSURE  
ON DEBATE**

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, once again, out of an abundance of caution and in the event the motion of which I gave notice yesterday under the provisions of Standing Order 33 is not disposed of in this sitting, I hereby give notice that at the next sitting of the house, immediately before the order of the day is called for resuming the debate on the motion "that the third report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization be concurred in", and on any amendment or amendment in amendment proposed thereto, I will move that the said debate not be further adjourned.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Why do you not put it on a perpetual basis?

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****WATER RESOURCES****CANADA-ONTARIO JOINT COMMITTEE—  
EXTENSION TO OTHER PROVINCES**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for water and energy. Arising from the press release issued by the minister today stating that the governments

[Mr. Speaker.]

of Canada and Ontario have agreed to establish a joint committee of senior officials to advise on water management policies and operations including pollution, will the minister advise whether similar arrangements are being made with other provinces and, if not, why not?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. It will be our hope to work out similar arrangements with other provinces. I met with the minister from Ontario yesterday and we agreed that this kind of committee should allow for a maximum amount of information and consultation, to ensure that efficient use is made of all our resources in such fields as pollution.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, has the minister entered into any definite discussions with other provinces or has he any firm intentions of entering into such discussions across the country on any regular basis?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, it would be my intention to enter into such discussions as soon as reasonably possible in this connection and expressly in connection with the proposed new Canada Water Act.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Will the minister say whether this joint committee is supposed to consider a proposal for diversion of waters in the James Bay area into the Great Lakes?

**Mr. Lang:** It certainly is not, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. B. Keith Penner (Thunder Bay):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister say at this time whether the study of water diversion from north-western Ontario into Lake Superior and the six progress reports which have followed from that study will be tabled in the house before we recess?

**Mr. Lang:** I cannot give a definite answer to that question. We are looking into the possibility of the publication of these documents but a firm decision has not yet been reached.

**POLLUTION****WATER—SIGNING OF AGREEMENT WITH  
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Mr. Bruce Howard (Okanagan Boundary):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister without Portfolio whether he can announce a date in respect of the signing of an agreement between the federal government and the province of British Columbia on a water pollution policy?