

Inquiries of the Ministry

to report back to the house, and in this instance would he not think that the Tariff Board in this case is really splitting hairs?

FISHERIES

INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS TO ACT

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, Mr. Speaker, arising out of the fact that the Canada water bill is now before a Standing Committee of the House for intensive consideration. Can the minister indicate when he will be bringing in suggested amendments to the Fisheries Act in order that we may have an opportunity, at least at the first reading stage, to assess to what extent his proposals will plug the loop-hole in his colleague's bill?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendment to the Fisheries Act has been cleared by the government and the bill will be introduced perhaps after the Easter recess. I can assure the hon. member that the Fisheries Act amendments and the Canada Water Act are on all fours.

[Translation]

POWER

MINAS BASIN—FINANCING OF TIDAL POWER PROJECT BY BANK OF CANADA

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

In view of the fact that financiers have refused to carry out the project of operating a tidal power plant in the Bay of Fundy, does the minister intend to seek other means of financing the project and particularly using the funds of the Bank of Canada to accomplish what is physically possible?

Mr. Speaker: I feel that the hon. member's interesting suggestion could be placed on the order paper.

[English]

TAXATION

WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—TELEVISION STATEMENT BY MINISTER—REQUEST FOR DETAILS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. As the minister said in a television interview on the CBC news on

[Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys).]

Wednesday night that there are a number of things in the white paper on tax reform that he does not like, would he take the first opportunity on motions to enumerate what those things are and what he specifically intends to do about them?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I personally do not like to have to pay more taxes but am willing to pay them in order to help take some other people off the tax rolls.

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Now that the Postmaster General has revealed himself as being a co-author of the white paper, does that minister's recent absence from the House stem from the fact that the Minister of Finance has asked him to undertake some revising?

Mr. Benson: No, Mr. Speaker, not really.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question of a sort that has been asked before. Is the minister now prepared to state what the changes are so that members of the public who are preparing briefs and the two committees making studies will know what they are supposed to be studying? Let us have a statement.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, the two committees know what they are studying. They are studying the white paper, and it is up to them to make recommendations.

Mr. Woolliams: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I do not ask this to be argumentative; the committees know what they are studying. Will the minister heed the suggestion that it would be better and have more merit if the committees were to study what the minister intends to implement and not withdraw?

Mr. Benson: No, Mr. Speaker, I do not think so. These committees are studying proposals.

Mr. Stanfield: An exercise in futility.

Mr. Benson: I will not dictate to the committee as to what it should do, and I do not think my hon. friend should suggest that.

Mr. Diefenbaker: But the minister makes the ultimate decision.

[Later:]

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): My question is supplementary to one directed by