

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION**

## INDIAN AFFAIRS—ADOPTION OF FLAG

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. In view of the fact that Canada's native Indians now have adopted a flag of their own to signify the Indians' right of eminent domain over their land, will the minister open negotiations with Mr. Andy Paull, the Indian spokesman, for permission to adopt this flag for use by the rest of Canada, thereby solving the problem of Indian rights and of a Canadian flag at one fell swoop.

Perhaps I might say that as this flag was flown first in Comox-Alberni I am somewhat concerned about whether I will be admitted to my constituency at the end of the session.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, it would be impossible for the minister to open negotiations with Mr. Paull as he is engaged continuously in negotiations with him. As to the other question asked by the hon. member, I think it is outside my competence as Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

**FISHERIES**EFFECTS OF DRILLING FOR OIL—SUGGESTED  
FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. W. Murphy (Lambton West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries concerning commercial fishing problems on the great lakes. Has the minister received any verbal or written representations regarding loss of catches in lake Erie where oil and gas exploration is taking place and, if so, can the government do anything about it?

There is a second question I should like to ask at this time. In view of the lamprey menace and the fact that the international joint commission now has jurisdiction over the commercial fishing industry in the great lakes in an effort to stamp out this menace, will there now be divided jurisdiction between the federal government and the province? Have any representations been made to the federal government to take over the administration of laws and regulations regarding fisheries?

**Hon. James Sinclair (Minister of Fisheries):** Mr. Speaker, I have received verbal complaints from other Ontario members regarding this problem of drilling for gas and oil in lake Ontario and lake Erie. I have also

I think the minister is well aware—will the minister, when he is making this legal exploration of the problem, determine whether the United States was consulted when northern waters were diverted into lake Superior, and whether that same principle will apply to the diversion of waters from any lake, especially one that is wholly in Canada? Would the same principle not apply?

**Mr. Pearson:** We shall look into that aspect of the question. As to the statement alleged to have been made by certain United States congressmen that this diversion is no concern of Canada, it is a concern of Canada and we have already made known that concern by a note last March which I think has been tabled.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**MILAN BABIC—TREATMENT BY UNITED STATES  
CUSTOMS OFFICIALS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. George H. Hees (Broadview):** I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the Secretary of State for External Affairs a report for the house regarding his investigation of the detention of Mr. Babic of Toronto by the United States immigration department?

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, although we have not yet received any complaint on this matter, as I stated the other day in the house, in view of the press statements concerning it, we have asked our officials in New York to make an inquiry. They have done that and as a result received a report from the United States immigration authorities which does not coincide in every respect with the statements made by Mr. Babic to the press. However, even on the basis of the United States report I think there is justification for complaint to the United States government. Before we decide to take any formal action I think we ought to give Mr. Babic a chance to comment on the United States immigration report.

Apparently this naturalized Canadian citizen was stopped in New York in transit to Canada, which of course is something within the right of the United States government to do. However, we feel that on this occasion the use of that legal right was not warranted and that the national security of the United States would not have been prejudiced by the immediate departure of this shipwrecked Canadian citizen to his home in Toronto.