

Inquiries of the Ministry

● (1450)

TRANSPORTATION—REPORT ON RAILWAY SAFETY

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question relates to the transportation of grain and I should like to direct it to the Minister of Transport. In view of the generally hazardous conditions in the Fraser Canyon and the many hearings conducted on the subject of railway safety by the Railway Transport Committee, can the minister give us any indication when the report of that committee will be made public?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I cannot do so at the moment, but I will make inquiries and let the hon. member know.

SUGGESTED DRYING AT INLAND TERMINALS TO EXPEDITE LOADING OF SHIPS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): I should like to ask the minister how long it will be before we will catch up on the transportation of grain to meet the commitments we have already made and, further, whether consideration is being given to permitting farmers to make deliveries to existing inland terminals so the grain can be dried and made ready to be loaded on ships immediately?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): The exact date on which there will be no ships waiting in Vancouver is a matter of complete conjecture. It should be noted that the waiting of ships in harbours in other ports of the world is an ordinary and accepted thing. It seems to me it is only in the particular case of Vancouver, and of grain loading, that special attention is directed to it although, naturally, we regret that there should be any delays. The Wheat Board is examining the question of making more use of inland terminals and the related question of whether grain should be sent to those terminals by truck rather than by rail. At the present time the board is looking at all aspects of this question to see whether the throughput out of Vancouver can be increased.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I should like to ask the Minister of Justice why he concentrates all his concern on private elevator companies and on the port of Vancouver when he has available a perfectly good federally-owned grain elevator in Prince Rupert which is not being used to capacity?

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FISHERIES

MEASURES TO CONSERVE HERRING RESOURCES IN PLACENTIA BAY

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. It concerns the problem in Placentia Bay caused by herring seining fleets operating there. Does the minister have any plans to enforce necessary con-

[Mr. Speaker.]

servation measures to protect the herring resources of the bay and the rights of the people in the industry?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker, plans similar to those announced last year in respect of Fortune Bay. We have recently set up a herring management committee with representatives from the fishing industry in the Atlantic provinces. We think we can refer this question to that committee for immediate action.

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POWER

PROPOSED JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT—FEDERAL INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER PROJECT SHOULD PROCEED IN LIGHT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. In light of the federal-provincial study on the environmental impact of the James Bay project and the fact that this study made no attempt to answer the question whether or not the project should proceed but concerned itself only with the methods which might be used to make it proceed, would the minister tell us whether the government intends to make a study of its own to decide whether or not this project should proceed in the face of all the environmental hazards involved?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): The study to which the hon. member refers is one carried out jointly by the province of Quebec and by the federal government. We lent a number of experts in various fields—wildlife, fisheries, oceanography and so on. The joint task force produced some 50 reports, all of which are published and available to the public. A summary has also been prepared. However, further investigations will continue as the planning for the whole James Bay project proceeds.

Mr. Nesbitt: Perhaps the minister did not hear my question. Does the government intend to make any investigation designed to determine whether or not this project should proceed?

Mr. Davis: To put it simply, the project, as we have assessed it environmentally is in provincial jurisdiction. We are making federal expertise available in order to help the province assess the environmental aspects of the plan as they evolve. Were there some facets of the development which involved other governments, the question posed by the hon. member might perhaps be answered in another manner, but as far as my department is concerned, the effects of this project are provincial, not federal.

Mr. Nesbitt: A final supplementary, addressed to the Minister of Transport.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member might ask a short supplementary and the minister might reply briefly because we shall soon be running short of time.