

*Inquiries of the Ministry***WATER RESOURCES**

SURVEY OF REQUIREMENTS

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the recent study released by the United States interior department regarding the possible importation of water from Canada, I would ask the Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources whether the federal government has undertaken a survey of our water resources and our water needs and, if so, when will a report to the house on these studies be made?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, both the department and the government are continually looking at the state and nature of our water resources. I am not sure that we have a study that specifically meets the suggestion included in the report to which the hon. member refers, but I will look at that question.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the minister, if he does not know the circumstances at the moment, whether he would also inquire if two engineering firms have actually been engaged by the government to undertake such a survey?

[*Translation*]

AGRICULTURE

POTATOES—PROGRAM FOR ASSISTANCE OF GROWERS

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

[*English*]

In view of the extremely poor marketing conditions this year, especially in the maritime provinces, will the Minister of Agriculture announce to this house soon a program or programs to come to the aid of potato shippers and growers and the potato industry in general.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the question of possible actions that might be taken to stabilize the returns to potato producers in the maritime provinces has been referred to the Agricultural Stabilization Board for consideration and recommendation. Discussions are also going on now between my department, producer groups and provincial representatives in those provinces.

TAXATION

WHITE PAPER FOR CONSIDERATION OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Does the government intend to publish a white paper on taxation early in June so that finance committee members may study it before the summer adjournment?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I hope to publish it some time in June but I cannot say exactly when.

FISHERIES

SEALS—REPORT ALLEGING FRAUDULENT FILM PRESENTATION OF KILLING METHODS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Has the minister seen a report by a senior official of his department, submitted to his predecessor last February, concerning the film made by Artek Film Limited. It shows conclusively that the film fraudulently misrepresents seal killing methods in Canada. The film in question has been circulated in Europe, causing great damage to Canada's reputation and to Canada's seal hunt.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I have heard reference to this film. I will look into the matter further and answer the hon. member in due course.

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. My question was about the report made by a senior official of the minister's department to the minister's predecessor last February. Has the minister read the document? Because there is great interest in this matter and because the film affects Canada's reputation abroad, will he be good enough to table the document?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have not read the document. I will read it first and then consider whether it ought to be tabled.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I will let the minister have a copy of the document, if he would like to read it. Perhaps then he will agree to having it tabled.

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. At an appropriate time would the minister make a statement on motions in the house on this