

plan to use some of his subsidy program to assist the affected parts of the agricultural industry?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the bill before the House would assist the food processing industry if it qualified and, as the Minister of Agriculture explained last night, he is looking through the agriculture programs for ways to help other parts of the agricultural industry.

Mr. Thompson: My question is simply: what about the farmer?

Mr. Benson: That was answered last night.

Mr. Thompson: No, it wasn't.

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BRIDGES

PROPOSED STRUCTURE TO SEA ISLAND, VANCOUVER— MODIFICATION OF PLAN

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport relating to representations that have been made to him regarding the proposed toll bridge in Vancouver with access to Sea Island, and all the related paraphernalia associated with that structure. Has he reached any decision on whether this structure will proceed as planned, or has he reached a decision that it should be modified and have those concerned been notified?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, some weeks ago officials from the department met with the interested parties in the area of Richmond and also the general area surrounding the airport. A report has been brought back by them. A modified plan is now being prepared. I am hopeful that it can be brought forward for consideration by the government in a matter of a few weeks.

The difficulty at the moment is that the commitment made initially with the understanding of the people concerned did involve a toll arrangement. Our hope is that we can now reverse that arrangement in some way, but this will call for changes in design and in considerable added cost of the project.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, will the minister consult the people who are concerned and who, had they been consulted initially, might have saved the minister a lot of trouble?

Mr. Jamieson: I certainly cannot agree either with the supposition in the question or with the innuendo. On July 1 I spent the whole of the afternoon meeting with all of the groups from Richmond—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Inquiries of the Ministry

POWER

PROPOSED FLOODING OF SKAGIT RIVER VALLEY— REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of the Environment. Has the minister received the report of the International Joint Commission on its investigation into the proposed flooding of the Skagit River valley?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): No, but the report will be submitted to the government some time next month.

Mr. Harding: What further action has the minister or his department taken since the House recessed in June to block the proposed flooding of the Skagit River valley?

Mr. Davis: As the hon. member knows, Mr. Speaker, this matter is before the International Joint Commission and until that commission makes its recommendations known neither the Canadian government nor the U.S. government would take any action.

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[Translation]

NAVIGATION

OTTAWA RIVER—ACTION TO FORCE PAPER COMPANIES TO PICK UP DEBRIS

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

Both Eddy and CIP companies use the Ottawa river for their pulpwood and this is very hazardous for navigation. As a matter of fact, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion almost lost his life there the day before yesterday—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member ask his question.

Mr. Caouette: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just about to ask my question. I also cruise the Ottawa river on my boat and the same misadventures happen to us.

Does the minister intend to force these companies to remove at least the waste they leave in the Ottawa river?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, and I can assure the hon. member that if he is in danger of losing his shirt I will look after him too.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

QUEBEC—SIGNING OF AGREEMENT WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.