

Inquiries of the Ministry
REPORTS AND PAPERS

Alberta

Blairmore	Edmonton
Calgary	Edson
Drumheller	Lethbridge

British Columbia

Chilliwack	Penticton
Courtenay	Port Alberni
Cranbrook	Powell River
Duncan	Prince George
Kamloops	Prince Rupert
Kelowna	Princeton
Kimberley	Revelstoke
Mission City	Trail-Rossland
Nanaimo	Vancouver
Nelson	Vernon
New Westminster	Victoria.
Ocean Falls	

[Later:]

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) arising out of his statement as to the application to 100 communities of the five-day 40-hour week.

Mr. Abbott: About 180 communities.

Mr. Diefenbaker: All right; about 180 communities. In the case of areas in which the prevailing practice is, generally speaking, the five-day 40-hour week and which have not been included within the purview of the table that was placed before the house, will the minister say how frequently it will be reviewed and what evidence would be required in order to have added as an addendum an area which is not now included in the present list?

Mr. Abbott: My understanding is that the civil service commission are making a continuous inquiry. It would only be hearsay for me to tell my hon. friend what evidence they accept as to whether or not the 40-hour week is the prevailing practice. I assume they survey existing industries, offices, et cetera. My information is that the policy is that where more than 50 per cent of the industries or office workers are on the five-day 40-hour week, they then certify that area as being one in which it is the prevailing practice. The same practice would apply with respect to the civil service.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I direct a question to the Minister of Finance, supplementary to the one asked by the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker). Must the government always follow in this matter? Could the government not lead the way once in a while?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN TABLING RETURNS

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, as required by law, I am tabling the annual report to parliament of the civil service commission regarding the positions excluded from the operation of the Civil Service Act during the year 1953.

I am also tabling a parliamentary return in regard to cost plus contracts.

Mr. Lennard: Whose return? Who asked for it?

[Later:]

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State. I noticed when he tabled a return a few moments ago that he did not follow the usual practice and say who had asked for the return. It is the usual procedure in tabling returns not only to inform hon. members of the subject matter, but also to give the name of the hon. member who asked for it. I would suggest that the usual practice be followed in this matter.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I understood these returns were orders of the house and I did not realize it was the duty of a minister to go behind an order of the house and give the name of the hon. member who had moved for the return; but if it is the general wish that that be done I shall certainly be glad to comply.

WATER POLLUTION

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER—INQUIRY AS TO ACTION BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is he prepared to give a statement setting forth the degree of success that has been achieved as the result of the co-operation between his officials and the health officials of the government of Alberta in connection with the pollution of the North Saskatchewan river?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member has just noted, the matter he brings to my attention is receiving the consideration of the federal government in co-operation with the responsible government under the constitution in the province of Alberta. I may say, however, that our own laboratory in Ottawa and the laboratories of the department of health in Edmonton, as well as the laboratories of the industries concerned, are all