

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can give that assurance. The proposal—and I emphasize, as I have on previous occasions, that at the moment it is only a proposal—would be to locate the rail-car ferry service in such a way that under normal circumstances it can serve on the gulf crossing but would be readily available, in the event that the *Abegweit* were to have problems on the Prince Edward Island service, to be diverted to P.E.I. within a matter of a very few hours.

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AGRICULTURE**INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—REQUEST FOR REFERENCE TO SUPREME COURT**

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In view of the recent ruling of the Manitoba Court of Appeal that persons within a province may receive for consumption or resale agricultural products from outside the province free from any regulation, direction or control by a provincial marketing board—an important interpretation of section 121 of the British North America Act—would the Prime Minister take steps to instruct the Minister of Justice to refer this whole matter to the Supreme Court of Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this matter was raised with me yesterday, I believe, by the Minister of Agriculture who is discussing it with the Minister of Justice. The question is presently being studied. It certainly points to the correctness of the line that we have taken at the federal level, that these problems can be settled only by a measure of federal-provincial co-operation.

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker: I understand the hon. member for Crowfoot has a supplementary to his previous question.

Mr. Horner: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I direct my supplementary to the Prime Minister. If the Manitoba government takes the position that it should take this question to the Supreme Court, are the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice prepared to assist in determining the exact interpretation, for the good of all provinces, of section 121 of the British North America Act?

Mr. Trudeau: Certainly, Mr. Speaker. This is one of the matters that the Minister of Justice will be looking into.

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FLOODS**SURREY, B.C.—THREAT POSED BY CRUMBLING OF DYKES**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I want to ask the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Has the minister received a request from Surrey, B.C. asking for a meeting to discuss the flood threat which has been raised in Surrey by the crumbling of some dykes that were built in 1912? If so, would he

[Mr. MacLean.]

undertake to look into the matter so that any immediate threat might be removed?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, this matter is under joint study with the province of British Columbia.

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FINANCE**INCREASE IN CHARTERED BANK CHARGES ON CURRENT ACCOUNTS**

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It concerns the question I directed to him last week asking what action he intends to take about the 33 per cent increase that the banks have levied on the handling of cheques. He replied at that time that the Prices and Incomes Commission was conducting a preliminary inquiry. I should like to ask the minister whether that preliminary inquiry has been concluded and, if so, what was the result? If it has not been concluded, when does he expect to receive a report from the commission?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The answer is no, Mr. Speaker, it has not been received and I do not have information as to when it will be. I am sure it will be completed as soon as the commission can do so.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question period expired a moment ago. Will the House allow the hon. member for Leeds to ask a question, after which we will call orders of the day?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE**PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF CANEX STORE AT KINGSTON BASE—EFFECT ON MERCHANTS**

Mr. Desmond Code (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Minister of National Defence. In view of the grave concern of Kingston merchants, is it the policy of the government to establish what are known as CANEX stores for the Canadian Armed Forces at Kingston, which will function in direct competition with the retail merchants of that area?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think this is the kind of question that might be considered at the time of adjournment. I realize the hon. member's question is one of importance, but I am wondering whether it should not ordinarily be placed on the order paper or, if there is urgency, considered at the time of adjournment. Orders of the day.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. While the President of the Treasury Board is still in the House, I should like to inquire when he will next appear