

tioned caused the minister to be aroused to a degree that is unusual for him, is that correct?

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am waiting for an answer.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, is the minister going to be dumb in this connection?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman did not add anything that has not been said several times before the standing committee and in this House.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Why object to him saying it when he tells the truth?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, most of what Admiral Boyle has said has in fact been the subject of full debate and discussion in this House and in the standing committee for several weeks.

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TRANSPORT

ALLEGED ENDORSEMENT OF FORMER HAMILTON HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS LANZA AND HICKEY BY MINISTER OF LABOUR—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister and concerns a recent affair in Hamilton to which I believe the Prime Minister was a witness, and that is the latest endorsement by the Minister of Labour concerning former Hamilton Harbour commissioners Messrs. Lanza and Hickey. In view of the fact that the Minister of Transport now refuses, perhaps properly so, to answer simple factual questions about the dredging scandal, which is before the courts and therefore sub judice, does the Acting Prime Minister now intend to instruct the Minister of Labour to withhold his character references about former members of the Hamilton Harbour Commission, made in the presence of at least one juror, until he is before the court and can be subjected to the kind of cross-examination which these statements deserve?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have not had the opportunity of talking with the Minister of Labour about the report that appeared in the press, and I am not quite sure whether the people concerned are before the courts.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, would the Acting Prime Minister not agree that remarks of this sort by a minister of the Crown concerning individuals who, because of the nature of their activities, are the subject of discussion before the courts constitute an impropriety from a political or legal point of view?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker, I would not necessarily accept that view because this would be very restrictive of

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comments. After all, these may be people who are quite innocent, and my hon. friend knows that he would be against any such unnecessary restrictions.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GARRISON DIVERSION—INQUIRY AS TO PROTESTS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of the Environment may I direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the strong protest uttered over the weekend by the Minister of the Environment against the Garrison diversion project in the State of North Dakota, would the minister say whether the protest expressed by that minister has been communicated through official and effective channels to the authorities in Washington?

● (1440)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. From time to time, as my hon. friend knows, we have through diplomatic notes sought information about the Garrison diversion. We have subsequent to the note seeking information, through a further note, expressed our opposition to the project and our concern that its completion or its being carried forward would contravene the provisions of the boundary treaty. The United States has undertaken, of course, that any aspect of construction would be within the obligations it has assumed under the treaty and has given the assurance that all these obligations would be carried out. At the present time, as my hon. friend also may know, we are discussing with the United States authorities the possibility of a joint reference to the International Joint Commission. We have not yet agreed on certain language and we would only make the reference if it were understood before the reference were made that modifications would be required to any construction project. That is the present state of the play.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have a supplementary question for the minister, Mr. Speaker. In the meantime has the Government of the United States given assurance that the work on the project will stop so that the pollution which could flow from this project into the province of Manitoba will not go ahead.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the United States authorities have given the assurance that no construction would be undertaken that would have an adverse affect on the waters of the Souris and so on in Manitoba. This pledge has been given by the United States.

GARRISON DIVERSION—SUGGESTION UNITED STATES BE ASKED FOR MORATORIUM ON PROJECT

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As the government has copies of a letter from the conservation and natural resources com-