

*Inquiries of the Ministry***HOUSING**

LIFTING OF FREEZE ON PUBLIC PROJECTS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of housing. If he has not already done so, is he now in a position to confirm the announcement made by the C.B.C. that the freeze in respect of public housing is to be lifted?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, that is an interesting speculation. I will be making my statement, as I said before, on second reading of the bill before the house.

THE MINISTRY

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLLUTION CONTROL

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister in connection with his announcement today concerning the division of responsibility in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Will he advise who will be responsible for pollution control policy, if and when there is any?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in so far as there is a policy coming under that department it will be related to the water aspect, and therefore the responsibility will rest upon the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatchewan.

Mr. Aiken: Mr. Speaker, I assume that the minister will also be the sponsor in bringing in the bill relating to the water act?

Mr. Trudeau: That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NEWFOUNDLAND—REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLAN

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion whether he is in a position to inform the house if the economic development plan for the province of Newfoundland, including Labrador, has been completed by his department and, if so, when we can expect an announcement?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I think I answered that question some weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether that question is in order. Unless there are circumstances of which I am not aware I do not see why the question should be in order at this time.

Mr. MacInnis: With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, when the minister made his statement on motions he referred to the admissibility of immigrants to Canada and to their having no criminal records. I should like to ask whether this still applies.

Mr. Basford: How did your ancestors get in?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the general regulations as to criminal records in respect of immigrants still apply. This may not be the fact but it may involve a condition; and that is a straight answer to the question.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, will the minister remember that Hal Banks is a deserter we very much want back?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether he is aware of the fact that deserters from the United States army are more or less criminals under the laws of the United States and therefore not admissible to this country?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member and the minister that this is a debate and I do not think the supplementary question should be allowed.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, I now rise on a point of order in respect of the remark made by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Let me suggest to the minister, in reference to the remark he made about my ancestors, that it was not his ancestors who were involved but rather the natives who were responsible for that head he has.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think it should be mentioned for the record that both remarks were made in a spirit of levity.