

ernment intend to discuss with the Prairie provinces the idea of organizing a comprehensive analysis of this kind as a basis for the economic development of the Prairies?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): This is a question I could discuss with my cabinet colleagues, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

WATER RESOURCES

PROPOSED DIVERSION OF PEMBINA RIVER INTO NORTH SASKATCHEWAN—DISCUSSIONS WITH ALBERTA GOVERNMENT

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Have discussions taken place between officials of the Alberta government and the federal government in connection with the proposed diversion of the Pembina River into the North Saskatchewan River?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Harding: Have any studies been projected to determine what possible ecological effects such diversion would have on the Athabasca Delta, the Mackenzie River and the Mackenzie Delta?

Mr. Davis: I do not know personally, but I will make inquiries.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION RESPECTING MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICIES

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): I would if I could return to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In light of the recommendation of the Atlantic Development Council that government monetary and fiscal policy be sensitive to regional needs, and in light of the fact that the Atlantic region has suffered excessively from the burden of personal and corporate income tax, will the minister now give some assurance that he will remove or consider removing the 3 per cent surtax on personal and corporate income tax in the Atlantic region?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I believe I have the authority to discuss this subject with all interested parties, but I do not have the authority to decide.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think we should give other members an opportunity to ask questions at this point.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

AGRICULTURE

FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING BILL—EXCLUSION OF CATTLE AND CALVES—ACTION OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): My question is for the Prime Minister. I ask your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, since it involves a short preamble. On February 4 I asked the Minister of Agriculture whether it was still his intention to have cattle and calves excluded from the provisions of Bill C-176. He replied that it would be up to the Standing Committee on Agriculture to determine how they wished to amend the bill, but added there was general agreement—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member should ask his question. I suggest it is not quite fair of him to deliver to the House a preamble of such length.

Mr. McKinley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am getting there. Yesterday, in the Standing Committee on Agriculture, such an amendment was moved by a government member and 12 of the 15 government members voted against it, including the minister's parliamentary secretary.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is not a question; it is a speech. I recognize the hon. member for Comox-Alberni.

Mr. McKinley: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, my question is coming immediately.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows he cannot do this. He has referred in part of his question to proceedings in a committee and this is not in accordance with the rules. At the same time, it is not entirely fair to the other hon. members who are just as anxious as he is to ask questions, particularly when there are only seven minutes left before the end of the question period. Nevertheless, the hon. member might be allowed to put his question at this point.

Mr. McKinley: Does the Prime Minister not consider this vote to represent a distinct lack of confidence in the Minister of Agriculture by the majority of government members and would he use his influence to have such an amendment accepted when the bill comes before the House?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that the preamble was out of order and that his question is also out of order.

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WELFARE

RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS PRESENTED BY NATIVE COUNCIL OF CANADA RESPECTING MÉTIS AND NON-STATUS INDIANS

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of National