

ered to assist parties in the future determination of values.

**Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister a supplementary question. How can one appeal some five, six or ten years from now when that same assessment is put forward by the department?

**Mr. Stanbury:** That is not the assessment, Mr. Speaker. The assessment would take place at the time of disposition, and any owner is free to make that kind of valuation himself or obtain one.

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### FLOODS

#### HIGH WATER LEVELS OF GREAT LAKES—GOVERNMENT STUDY TO PROVIDE GREATER SAFEGUARDS AGAINST PROPERTY DAMAGE

**Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. In light of the information sent to him by a number of Ontario municipalities, including the borough of Scarborough, what plans has he or the government for initiating a study of the high water level situation in the Great Lakes with a view to gaining greater control of the water level in future, greater safeguards against property damage and greater protection for property owners in municipalities in the area? What type of study, if any, is being planned in consultation with other governments or on the part of the federal government alone?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, there have been very extensive studies under way, some of them for a number of years, in co-operation not only with the government of Ontario but with the United States and the governments of those states adjoining the Great Lakes.

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### ELECTIONS

#### INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION THIS SESSION RESPECTING CANDIDATE AND PARTY EXPENSES

**Mr. Ed Nelson (Burnaby-Seymour):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the strong possibility of an election in the not too distant future—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nelson:** —will the Prime Minister tell the House whether the government plans to introduce legislation to regulate election expenses of candidates and parties before the end of this session, as recommended by various commissions and a committee of this House?

**An hon. Member:** The coalition is crumbling.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure you would be the first to note that the premise

### Oral Questions

to that question is hypothetical in character. Having said that, I can only remind the House that we did bring such legislation before the last parliament, but unfortunately it did not have the support of the parties opposite. We do intend to bring forward legislation on the same subject as soon as possible.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I believe the right hon. member for Prince Albert has a supplementary question, after which the Chair will call orders of the day.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF KITS TO ENUMERATORS—POSSIBILITY OF EARLY ELECTION

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I should not like to leave this hypothetical question up in the air. I would ask the Prime Minister whether there is any significance in the fact that enumerators' kits are being sent out this week to all returning officers by the Chief Electoral Officer, bearing in mind the fact that in 1972 the same course was followed three months before the election?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is significance in that fact. It is related to the fact that the Chief Electoral Officer stated publicly a month or two ago, I believe, that an election would not be easily held until perhaps June because of the importance of getting a lot of material printed and distributed. He is now taking steps to make sure that an election will be possible and will not be held up for technical or constitutional reasons, if an election were deemed to be desirable.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, is the right hon. gentleman saying there are technical reasons why these kits should go out at this time, other than because of a contemplated election on his part?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, hon. members know that the mails are slow in this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

**Mr. Reid:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I should like to draw Your Honour's attention to Question No. 1,849, in 29 parts, appearing on the notice paper in the name of the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen). I know it will not proceed to the order paper until Monday, but I want to enter a caveat at this time reserving my right to argue against the procedural admissibility of this question or some of its parts.

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege relating to the slanderous statement first made in respect of the Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet). I rise at this time to raise an objection on his behalf.