

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Labrador and the development of historic sites on the west—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Parliamentary Secretary might indicate whether a statement will be made.

**Mr. Martin P. O'Connell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I will draw the question to the minister's attention.

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

PEACE RIVER—EFFECT OF DAMS ON WATER LEVEL, WILDLIFE, ETC.—ASSISTANCE TO RESIDENTS IN LITIGATION

**Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development which is supplementary to one asked a few moments ago by the hon. member for Peace River. Will the minister consider giving assistance, by way of research, counsel or financially to the town of Peace River and the large number of residents in northern Alberta who have indicated they are taking action for damages against the province of British Columbia or its agencies in connection with the Athabasca situation?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I have been consulted on this point by the Indians involved and I gave them assurances that they would receive all the assistance that my department can provide concerning the claim.

As to financial aid, I believe that the inhabitants of this area should be able, given their number, to finance their own legal proceedings.

[English]

**POLLUTION**

ACTION TO CLEAN UP RIVERS IN OTTAWA AREA

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. What specific action is being taken by the Department of Fisheries and Forestry to ensure that the rivers in the Ottawa area are cleaned up in order to allow their use for fishing and other recreational purposes next summer?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that this, too, is a very far-reaching question and should be the

[Mr. Marshall.]

subject of a reply of a general nature under motions. The minister might indicate whether this kind of statement is contemplated.

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, the Fisheries Act is delegated for administration to Ontario and Quebec. While we are in close consultation with the relevant departments in those provincial administrations, we are not at this time directly involved in any planning process on the Ottawa.

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

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

DISPOSITION OF BILL C-196

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order with regard to the order of business for today. It has been indicated that there is one remaining item, namely, Bill C-196. There have been indications that there is a general desire that this bill might go through, but in view of an announcement read from the Chair a while ago I raise the question whether there is sufficient time between now and 4:45. I wonder if the government would consider—because, after all, it is in the hands of the government—recommending to His Excellency the Governor General that prorogation of this session be delayed for the rest of today, or for another day or two if necessary, so that this important piece of legislation might be completed by the House as well as by the other place, and thus become law.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, we are quite prepared to proceed with the debate on the measure for as long as possible. I would point out, however, that there are 44 amendments at the report stage, all of which on close examination are amendments designed to greatly improve the bill and facilitate its use for the grain farmers of Canada. In addition, on third reading two objections will be taken concerning the validity of the bill, both of which would be fatal to it. I thought this point should be in the mind of the minister when he considers the situation.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest a compromise. From what the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) has stated today, it seems unlikely that in the next several days it would be possible to complete the bill. However, I repeat to the House what I today suggested to