

Inquiries of the Ministry

the outcome of the discussions held in Ottawa yesterday between officials of his department and officials of the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Power Commissions with respect to tidal power?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): The general managers of the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Power Commissions, accompanied by senior staff, met yesterday with power development and marine construction specialists of the federal government. The meeting discussed in considerable detail the basic assumptions underlying the 1969 report of the Atlantic Tidal Power Programming Board and agreed on a program of review of areas where changed conditions since 1969 may have altered the competitive position of tidal power.

The review committee will report to the general managers of the two provincial power commissions and to the assistant deputy minister for energy of my department. Their work will touch on such matters as interest rates, escalation of costs of tidal and conventional power generation, and new developments in generation and construction techniques.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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FINANCE**INCOME TAX REDUCTIONS IN UNITED KINGDOM BUDGET—SIMILAR CANADIAN ACTION**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Bearing in mind the cuts which were made in rates of corporate and personal income taxes in the recent United Kingdom budget, is the minister considering following this example in his forthcoming budget?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I understand they intend to reform the British tax system to bring it more into line with the Canadian system.

ASSURANCE RESPECTING FORTHCOMING TAX CHANGES TO ASSIST OIL PRODUCERS IN AVOIDING EXPLORATION STAFF LAY-OFFS

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser): I have a further question for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. Bearing in mind that Imperial Oil Limited is presently in the process of implementing a general staff reduction of at least 20 per cent with respect to its western Canadian exploration operations, can the minister offer any assurance that his forthcoming budgetary and tax changes will not contribute to a further decrease in employment in this vital sector of our economy?

[Mr. Forrestall.]

NATIONAL SECURITY**REPLACEMENT OF PUBLIC ORDER (TEMPORARY MEASURES) ACT BY PERMANENT LEGISLATION—REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE**

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. Are the minister and his officials preparing legislation of a permanent nature to replace the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act and, if not, is he of the opinion that the subject should be referred to a committee for special study and report?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): The government will be asking Parliament for some type of parliamentary action before long.

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INDUSTRY**HOME OIL—SEVERANCE PAY FOR WORKERS IN CASE OF CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP**

Mr. C. Terrence Murphy (Sault Ste. Marie): I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that seven vice-presidents and four other senior officers of Home Oil have been guaranteed two years severance pay if they are dismissed or retire in the event of a change in the ownership of that company, would the minister assure the House that under any negotiations he may carry on the ordinary workers of the company will receive the same benign terms?

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AGRICULTURE**PROPOSED FARM ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM—REPRESENTATION FOR ORGANIZATIONS ON COMMITTEE**

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. I directed this question to the minister on Monday and his parliamentary secretary took it as notice. It has to do with the meeting which was held between the minister and the Ministers of Agriculture for the various provinces last weekend and the directive emanating from that meeting that a committee would be set up to study proposed farm adjustment programs. Can the minister tell us the composition of the committee? Will the farm organizations be represented on it?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): No, Mr. Speaker, though we shall be consulting with the farm organizations. This committee will be reporting to a meeting of Deputy Ministers of Agriculture which is to be held in Ottawa, I believe on April 28.