

Inquiries of the Ministry

personnel have been brought in from outside, notably from several of the national parks. Above all, tribute should be paid to the civilian population of the territory, who are bending every effort to help bring these fires under control.

The house will be pleased to learn that, in part because of the coming of rain but in very large measure because of the exceptional efforts of everyone participating in the fire-fighting activities, the threat has been greatly diminished in recent weeks, and the worst of the fires have been largely contained.

Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Ottawa West): May I ask the minister if he would explain how the member for Yukon was in constant daily touch with the minister concerned in the minister's absence?

Mr. Harkness: I think the hon. member must have been around here long enough to know that when a minister is absent another minister is in charge of his department.

Mr. McIlraith: May I take it, then, that the minister's answer was incorrect to that extent?

Mr. Harkness: The hon. member apparently, in spite of having been here for some 15 or 20 years, still does not understand how government is carried on.

FISHERIES**FRASER RIVER, B.C.—REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF SEASON**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold Hicks (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Fisheries, not only on my own account but also on behalf of the member for New Westminster, if there is going to be an advance in the time of fishing between the Pattullo bridge in New Westminster and the Mission bridge on the Fraser river?

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, both the hon. member for Fraser Valley and the hon. member for New Westminster have given me notice of intention to ask almost identical questions on this matter.

This is a matter which has been brought to my attention from time to time during the last year by those especially interested, and as a result I have had a thorough investigation made of this salmon fishery between the New Westminster bridge and the Mission bridge over the Fraser river which, under subsection 14 of section 67 of the British Columbia fishery regulations, must ordinarily close on September 15 of each year. My object

was to determine whether the season in the area might be extended without endangering conservation.

The problem is complicated, as there are five species of salmon involved in this fishery. Each is constituted of a race which runs at a different time and to a different river. It is obvious from the reports that early closure has benefited some runs to a slight extent, while others do not appear to be affected. I feel that the analysis must be carried further before a final decision is reached and this will be done.

For the year 1958, however, action has been taken to amend the regulations to permit salmon fishing in the area concerned, but of course subject to the provision that the area director of the fisheries department in British Columbia may use the over-all powers given to him under the regulations to prohibit fishing for part or all the season, should it be determined that such action is necessary for the protection and proper escapement of the salmon to the spawning grounds.

CRIMINAL CODE**CRUELTY TO ANIMALS—INSPECTION OF ANIMALS TO BE USED IN BULLFIGHT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lucien Cardin (Richelieu-Vercheres): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Would the minister inform the house if the bulls which are to take part in the deplorable exhibition at Lindsay this week end have been imported and, if so, were they subject to the usual tests and quarantines?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether they have been imported or not; the only knowledge I have in connection with the matter is that if the bulls were imported for any purpose they would be inspected in the normal manner by the health of animals division.

Mr. Cardin: May I ask a supplementary question. Would the minister tell the house why his department does not protest the use to which these bulls are to be put?

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member will refer to *Hansard* of 30 days or so ago, he will find that this question was dealt with by the Minister of Justice.

IRRIGATION**SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF AGREEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Tucker (Trinity-Conception): I would like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Could the minister table