

Inquiries of the Ministry

which operated with six vice-presidents—that may have something to do with the austerity program—now has 19 vice-presidents and there are three more to come?

Mr. Baldwin: Just like the cabinet.

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Would the Minister of Transport inform himself about the situation and advise the House at an early opportunity why it is necessary to consider the removal of the regional headquarters from the Atlantic provinces to Montreal?

Mr. Jamieson: I will be glad to do that, Mr. Speaker.

FISHERIES

SALE OF LAKE ERIE FRESH PERCH FILLETS

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): My question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. In view of the fact that his department and the provincial government have declared Lake Erie fish to be free from pollutants, and as the minister has also ascertained this from first-hand inspection, would he issue a directive to his inspectors to permit the sale of fresh fillets of perch which is a very lucrative market for the fishermen who sell this product?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): The question is one of testing all of the fish. At present the fish have to be held for some time and therefore have to be held in frozen form. Until we have sufficient testing apparatus and men trained to speed up the tests in large numbers we are unable to clear the fish. We want to be absolutely sure that the fish meet all our requirements before they are sold in this country or exported.

Mr. Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): Would the minister at least undertake to speed up the testing process? These men are forced to hold them for periods of up to two weeks before they can get an answer.

Mr. Davis: We have several new machines on order and we are training the necessary staff as quickly as we can.

POLLUTIONHOWE SOUND—SOURCE OF MERCURY
CONTAMINATION—CONTROL
MEASURES

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry regarding the recent closing of

[Mr. MacInnis.]

Howe Sound to sports fishing because of mercury pollution. Could the minister inform the House as to the source of the mercury pollution, its extent, and the measures being taken to control it?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): We know that the source of the mercury pollution is the FMC Chemicals caustic soda and chlorine plant at the head of Howe Sound. We do not know the extent of the pollution, but we hope to have the results on fish tests by the end of the week.

CHEDABUCTO BAY—PAYMENT OF
COMPENSATION

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might beg your indulgence and ask a question supplementary to one asked the other day when the Minister of Transport was not in the House. It has to do with pollution. Can the minister indicate to the House the procedure to be followed or the date on which the government will be in a position to announce the procedure to be followed by residents in the Chedabucto Bay area of Nova Scotia with respect to compensation for the damage they have sustained as a result of the *Arrow* disaster?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): The procedure has been explained to the residents of Chedabucto Bay on a number of occasions by both representatives of my department and the Department of Fisheries and Forestry. In addition, quite a job has been done cleaning up the fishermen's nets and the like, and I understand that tenders were called yesterday for the cleaning up of shore installations. So to this extent the work is under way. If there is any specific inquiry, either I or the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry will be glad to look into it.

SPORTSHOCKEY—SUGGESTED TELECASTING OF
JUNIOR A HOCKEY FINAL BY CBC

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): Because of the absence of the Secretary of State may I direct this question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact that there is no Canadian hockey team in the NHL playoffs this year, and in view of the fact that either Montreal or Quebec will be playing Weyburn, Saskatchewan in the Memorial Cup Junior A hockey final series, would the Prime Minister make representations to the CBC with the