

WATER RESOURCES

NANAIMO, B.C.—REMEDIAL ACTION TO PREVENT POLLUTION FROM CHEMICAL PLANT

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Have the studies of pollution in British Columbia determined the cause of death of approximately three tons of herring recently in waters adjacent to Nanaimo? What steps is the government taking to prevent further pollution in that area?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker. Remedial action has been taken in consultation with the chemical plant involved.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

PARTICIPATION OF MUNICIPAL UNITS IN JUNE MEETING

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser): My question is directed to the Prime Minister, and I would ask him if it is still his view that the question of representation of officials of municipal governments at the federal-provincial conference next week is a matter to be decided by each provincial government concerned?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): That is perhaps a brief summary of my views under the present constitution, Mr. Speaker. Of course the whole constitution could be debated and other opinions are welcome.

Mr. Schumacher: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the Prime Minister given any instruction or caused any instruction to be given to any provincial government to the effect that the in-camera nature of the conference would make participation by municipal officials inappropriate?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker, I did not raise this subject. I repeat again that under the present constitution we have no authority to decide how the provincial delegations will be composed, but the idea of municipal representation under a different kind of constitution, or that of different forms of participation, are ones which I think are open for debate and to which many levels of government are giving consideration, including our own.

Inquiries of the Ministry

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

INQUIRY INTO LAXITY IN OPERATING EFFICIENCY

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): My question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In view of the recent half million dollars railway mishap on the C.N.R. near Morrisburg, caused apparently by a locked wheel, and in view of the continued practice of the railway to reduce car inspection at intermediate terminals, will the minister now give immediate attention to instituting a public inquiry?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this is virtually the same question I answered a few days ago. There are a number of inquiries under way now which are under the auspices of the Canadian Transport Commission with regard to individual accidents. A summary of these cases, when brought together, will determine whether a public inquiry is necessary.

Mr. Skoberg: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Transport accept recommendations of interested parties through the C.T.C. in this regard?

Mr. Jamieson: Whether I want to accept them or not, Mr. Speaker, I am getting them.

POWER

MINAS BASIN—DISPOSITION OF FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): My question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. As a result of some private communication for which I am grateful, will the minister now reply to the question I asked earlier regarding the present disposition of the report on the feasibility study of development of the Minus Basin tidal power?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the report is expected to be completed within a matter of a few months, and some time during the autumn it should be available.

FISHERIES

REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF STRAIGHT BASE LINES

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): I have a question for the Minister of