

Inquiries of the Ministry

getting the information for the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) regarding steel, will he take note to see if it is possible to obtain more steel for hot water tanks? There is a definite shortage of them for replacement purposes.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Defence Production): I am afraid I cannot offer my hon. friend any prospect of increasing supplies of steel for hot water tanks.

Mr. Fraser: There is a definite shortage.

Mr. Howe: I know.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON SUPPLY SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. Harris (Danforth): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate what has been done with regard to steel and iron, but I had hoped that within the next three or four days—and I am in no hurry at all—the Minister of Defence Production, who has charge of matters connected with steel, and who perhaps is not too much worried about it, as, indeed, none of the rest of us are, might feel disposed to make a statement to the house as to how we are getting along in connection with steel. There are so many projects contemplated that a word from the minister may encourage the spending of some of that surplus money, about which the Minister of Finance is worried, on certain construction projects. The minister might give some thought to the question of restrictions which are not yet in the books, and, in doing so, he might give us some idea of how we may be permitted to spend some of the money on projects which are still under way.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Defence Production): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend has suggested that the minister is not too much worried about steel. I should like to correct that impression.

Mr. Harris (Danforth): I know he is worried all the time.

Mr. Howe: The minister is very much worried, and about steel in particular.

Mr. Harris (Danforth): Steel supply is getting better all the time.

Mr. Howe: I can say the situation is such that if anyone has any doubts about starting a project I would urge him not to start it; and even if he is pretty firm about starting, I would urge him to reconsider.

Mr. Harris (Danforth): But what about some of those projects which are half-finished?

Mr. Howe: We will try to finish them.

Mr. Harris (Danforth): Thank you; that is the answer I wanted.

[Mr. Fraser.]

Mr. Howe: I will try to give a more complete report later on.

Mr. Harris (Danforth): There is no hurry.

CIVIL SERVICE

INQUIRY AS TO ORDER IN COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO OUTSIDE WORK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance, based on a Canadian Press dispatch in a recent issue of the *Toronto Globe and Mail*. Has an order in council been passed permitting civil servants to take outside jobs so as to supplement their government earnings?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): Speaking from memory, Mr. Speaker, I think there is an order in council outlining the position of civil servants in that regard, but I would not be prepared to say what its terms are. I imagine it has been tabled with other orders in council. Anyway, I shall make inquiries and give my hon. friend an answer in a day or two.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MINISTER'S SPEECH IN TORONTO—REFERENCE TO REPORT IN MONTREAL "GAZETTE"

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has his attention been drawn to a Canadian Press dispatch which appeared in this morning's *Montreal Gazette*, and I believe in other papers, which places an interpretation on the minister's speech delivered recently in Toronto? If so, I should like to know whether it is an official interpretation of his speech.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Fulton: Whether it is a correct interpretation.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I read my *Gazette* this morning, and I found nothing in that newspaper which was an official interpretation of anything that I have ever said.

Mr. Fulton: May I ask whether it was the correct interpretation?

Mr. Sinnott: Put it on the order paper.

Mr. Pearson: It was a speculative interpretation.

Mr. Diefenbaker: May I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs, having regard to his answer to the hon. member for Kamloops in which he referred to speculative matters,