

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the hon. member should put his question on the order paper.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** With regret I have to bring to the attention of hon. members that it is five o'clock and the house will now have to proceed to consideration of private members' business which is listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions and public bills.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, may I crave the indulgence of the house while I give an answer to an urgent question that was asked yesterday?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**POWER****COLUMBIA RIVER—REQUEST FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE IN DAM CONSTRUCTION**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Kootenay West yesterday asked a question as follows:

Did Premier Bennett of the province of British Columbia ask the federal government for financial assistance toward the cost of the construction of the dams being built under the terms of the Columbia River Treaty? If so, what was the federal government's response to his request?

The Prime Minister was asked this question without notice and said he was unaware of any such request. Mr. Speaker, I should correct this immediately with the following reply. On September 16 Mr. Bennett wrote to me to confirm certain fiscal requests he had submitted at the tax structure committee meeting on September 14. These include two items relating to the construction of hydro-electric developments: first, \$30 million requested on behalf of the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority resulting from increased costs of the Columbia river dams due to the imposition of the 11 per cent federal sales tax after the signing of the agreement and, second, government of Canada credit to be made available to the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority for its large capital construction programs. In such instances the government of the province of British Columbia would be willing to guarantee any borrowings involved.

• (5:00 p.m.)

In acknowledging this letter on September 23 I said that these requests would be taken into consideration.

[Mr. Allard.]

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Was any figure named with reference to the amount of credit asked?

**Mr. Sharp:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE****REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT BUSINESS BE PROCEEDED WITH**

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, as second assistant house leader perhaps I should ascertain whether or not hon. members would like to use the rest of our allotted time to proceed with government business so that we may accomplish something today.

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the government's rigidity in opposition to the will of parliament and in view of the fact that this suggestion is the brainchild of the Minister of Transport, I think we should proceed with our normal business.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It being five o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper.

**FARM MACHINERY****SUGGESTED APPOINTMENT OF ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the order:

Private members' notices of motions—Mr. Rapp—That, in the opinion of this house, the government should consider the advisability of appointing a royal commission to investigate the increased costs of farm machinery across Canada, in relation to the price of farm products.

**Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale):** Mr. Speaker, I withdraw this motion because the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Greene) has already seen fit to appoint a royal commission to investigate farm machinery prices.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****SUGGESTED AMENDMENT REGULATIONS RESPECTING BARBERS RENTING CHAIRS**

On the order:

Private members' notices of motions—Mr. Smith—That, in the opinion of this house, the government should give consideration to the advisability of having the unemployment insurance regulations amended to provide that barbers renting chairs from owners be classified as self-employed people as this is the case under the Income Tax Act.