

Inquiries of the Ministry

in this field, who will be able to give their full time to this inquiry, working with an interdepartmental committee. I have no idea how long they will require for their initial investigations, which will then be submitted to the committee of ministers. However, I hope this will be done with the least possible delay.

I should add, because perhaps my previous answer did not cover the question, that there is nothing in this work which would interfere with any program of legislation we already have in mind, including the item mentioned by my hon. friend.

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that it is not customary or in accordance with our practice to announce the personnel of cabinet committees, I should like to ask the Prime Minister why this ordinary practice has been departed from in this case.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the reason is that this is not a cabinet committee, as the statement made clear. This is a committee of ministers. This action has been taken in the past, as distinct from an ad hoc or permanent cabinet committee, in which case the names of the members are not announced.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): A supplementary question. May I ask the Prime Minister whether the hon. member for Davenport is the same individual who headed up a royal commission on Canada's economic prospects, and did he not deal extensively with that situation at that time?

POWER**COLUMBIA RIVER—PROPOSED FURTHER DEVELOPMENT BY U.S.**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; I know he is looking forward to it. In view of glowing press statements in Washington with respect to the proposed increase in power at the Grand Coulee dam and of criticism of this unexpected development by hydro engineers in Canada and in various articles in professional magazines, would the minister ask the engineers of the water resources branch to appear before the standing committee on industry, research and energy development for questioning on this subject by members of the committee?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I presume a consultation would have to be had with the chairman of that committee. I hereby promise to do this.

TRANSPORT**IMPROVEMENT OF FERRY SERVICE, DIGBY-SAINTE JOHN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Guy Crossman (Kent (N.B.)): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Could he inform the house if the government has decided to give financial encouragement for the establishment of a new ferry service from southwestern Nova Scotia before improvements have been made in the present service between Digby and Saint John, New Brunswick? I ask this question because of the keen interest in this matter of many people in New Brunswick and the rest of Canada who look forward to the establishment of a true ferry service between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am not sure whether there is real urgency to this question. If there is not, perhaps the hon. member would want to discuss the matter at ten o'clock.

Mr. Crossman: Ten o'clock, sir.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**REQUEST THAT MUNICIPAL TAXES BE PAID FOR FULL YEAR**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister and is a follow-up to one I asked of the right hon. gentleman last Thursday. Is the Prime Minister yet in a position to assure the city of Halifax and other Canadian municipalities that Canadian National Railways will pay the equivalent of municipal taxes at full rates for all of 1967?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I took this matter up with the Minister of Transport who will be able to deal with it shortly, I hope.

CANADA PENSION PLAN**INQUIRY AS TO CONTRIBUTIONS BY FARMERS AND FISHERMEN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. S. Smallwood (Battle River-Camrose): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for