

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**WATER RESOURCES****GRAND CANAL—DISCUSSIONS WITH  
QUEBEC AND ONTARIO**

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, on November 6, I asked the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources whether officials of his department have been in touch with the governments of Quebec and Ontario regarding the diversion of the waters of the James bay basin called the Grand Canal project. I also asked him whether the federal government was carrying on the studies conducted on the subject.

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, during these past two or three years, some officials of my department have had discussions on several occasions with representatives of the governments of Ontario and Quebec about various questions regarding water resources but not about the diversion project called "Grand Canal" nor any other such project.

**Mr. Laprise:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his answer and I wish to ask him a supplementary question.

I would like to know whether it is a fact that the government of Canada is sharing in the cost of the studies made by the Ontario government and whether, according to the announcement made by the Minister of Natural Resources of Quebec, the government of that province can expect to receive the same assistance that was granted to Ontario?

Could the minister tell us whether the government is giving financial assistance to Ontario and Quebec concerning the diversion of waters from James bay?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the supplementary question could be put on the order paper or debated at the time of adjournment.

[English]

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****SUPREME COURT JUDGMENT UPHOLDING  
EQUAL RIGHTS FOR INDIANS**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. It has to do with the epochal judgment rendered today by the Supreme Court of Canada in the case of an

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

Indian, Joseph Drybones, of the Northwest Territories, in which that court upheld the authority of the Canadian Bill of Rights in providing and assuring that all Canadians shall have equal rights and that Indians shall not be placed in a lower category because of the provisions of the Indian Act. If he is not in a position at the moment to deal with this momentous decision upholding the Bill of Rights in its entirety so far as discrimination is concerned, would the minister be prepared to make a statement on motions in a day or so?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I agree with the right hon. gentleman that this is a very important decision rendered by the Supreme Court of Canada. I happen to have followed the course of that decision since it was first rendered by Mr. Justice Morrow of the Northwest Territories Court. I would like to read the judgment and consider the right hon. gentleman's suggestion.

**JUDGMENT IN CASE OF HUNTING  
INFRACTION BY ESKIMO**

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question which is so closely related as to be supplementary, dealing with a judgment of the same Mr. Justice Morrow of the Northwest Territories which held that an Eskimo was guilty of a hunting infraction under the Territorial Ordinance Act despite the fact that the offence took place on an ice floe more than three miles from the shoreline. Would the minister indicate if instructions were given to counsel to prosecute and secure conviction in spite of that fact?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** I had better take that one as notice, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Baldwin:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister consider the possibility of facilitating any appeal on this issue and, if such appeal is taken, is it the intention of the minister to continue to instruct counsel for the Crown to press for maintenance of the conviction despite the fact that the alleged offence took place more than three miles from the shoreline on an ice floe? It is time this government substituted some backbone instead of the wishbone it has shown on this issue.