

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

treaty, what instructions are the Canadian delegation working under, specifically, with regard to the importation of Japanese textiles?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** The delegation negotiating for a treaty are instructed to work out the best possible deal for Canada.

**Mr. Fleming:** My supplementary question is, are there any specific instructions in relation to textiles?

**Mr. Richard (Ottawa East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question—

**Mr. Fleming:** Mr. Speaker,—

**Some hon. Members:** Sit down.

**Mr. Fleming:** I asked a supplementary question, and I think the minister was about to answer it.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Mr. Speaker, in the negotiating of a treaty it is not customary to discuss the terms thereof on the floor of the House of Commons. When the treaty is ready for ratification, it will be presented here.

**CRIMINAL CODE****INQUIRY AS TO PROHIBITION OF THE SALE OF INFANTS OR CHILDREN**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. T. Richard (Ottawa East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Justice. I am sorry I could not give him notice; I just thought of it now. Would the Minister of Justice tell the house whether the Criminal Code, as revised, will include an article which would make it punishable to sell infants or children?

**Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice):** Replying to the hon. member's question I would say that the present Bill No. 7, which is now before the house, does not specifically make it a crime to sell infants or children.

[Later:]

**Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar):** May I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Justice? Would it be possible to have something more on the record? I can conceive of delegates from Canada at the United Nations being embarrassed about that question and answer, and that the answer might be quoted before one of the United Nations committees. Similar questions and answers, not quite as bad as that, have been asked and have embarrassed members. I, myself, suffered on one occasion from an answer somewhat similar to that.

[Mr. Fleming.]

**Mr. Garson:** I think the point raised by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) is well taken. The answer I gave is quite correct, but I think perhaps it would be better if I were to make a fuller statement tomorrow indicating that while Bill No. 7 does not specifically make it a crime to sell infants or children, such an act might be prosecuted under other sections of Bill No. 7. Perhaps I should also make reference to the law now existing before Bill No. 7 is passed.

**Mr. W. A. Tucker (Rosetown):** I would like to ask the Minister of Justice if it is not correct that the sale of a baby is an offence at common law which, under the Criminal Code as it now stands, is in force in Canada when the matter is not covered by the code?

**Mr. Garson:** No, that would be a wrong assumption. The common law is in effect at the present time, if that is what my hon. friend means, and will be in effect until Bill No. 7 is passed. But Bill No. 7 itself will be comprehensive of the whole field of criminal law, in the sense that it will abolish all common law offences.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBILITY OF INCREASES IN RATES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mrs. Ellen L. Fairclough (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Labour. Can the minister say if the department is now considering a proposal to raise the rates of unemployment insurance benefits?

**Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I am not able to answer that question at the present time.

**FLOODS****SUGGESTED CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS ON THAMES RIVER**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Jean Lesage (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt) asked a question of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Winters) which was taken as notice. The question had to do with flood conditions in Woodstock, and the building of dams on the upper Thames river and Cedar creek. In reply I might say that the building of the projected dams is normally considered to be the responsibility of the Ontario government.