

Inquiries of the Ministry

national forestry conference to be held next week and to be attended by representatives of provincial governments, industry and business. May I ask whether the labour unions will be represented?

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Orlikow: I should like to ask the minister if he would give consideration to having representatives of the unions there in view of the fact that the work force in this industry will be sharply reduced in the next few years as a result of technological changes.

Mr. Sauvé: I will, Mr. Speaker.

BANKRUPTCYREQUEST FOR TERMS OF REFERENCE
OF COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Justice if his recollection has improved with respect to the terms of reference to the three-man committee on bankruptcy, and if those terms of reference are in written form is the hon. gentleman prepared to table them?

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The members of the committee were given very general terms of reference in relation to the whole question of bankruptcy reform. These terms are set out in correspondence between myself and the members of the committee and I have no objection to tabling the correspondence. I will do so as soon as possible.

While I am on my feet perhaps I might answer a question which was asked by the Leader of the Opposition as well as by the hon. member for Yukon. I was asked whether the studies now being undertaken with a view to the revision of the Bankruptcy Act might not enable persons guilty of irregularities under existing legislation to escape the consequences of their acts if some action were not taken to suspend the operation of the legislative processes within which certain bankruptcy proceedings can be taken, at least while this committee is carrying on its study.

Mr. Speaker, I do not see any relationship between the limitation periods within which proceedings under the Bankruptcy Act must be taken and the studies now in progress. Any offences under the Bankruptcy Act that are discovered would be dealt with by the appropriate authorities under the present act. Such irregularities would not be discovered as a result of the work of the committee.

Also, such prosecutions as have been taking place in Quebec, and which have been described as involving fraudulent bankruptcies, are offences under the Criminal Code for such crimes as arson and fraud. These are indictable offences in respect of which there is no limitation period for the laying of charges.

Mr. Nielsen: A supplementary question. First, may I ask the minister if he will table the terms of reference contained in the correspondence to the three members of the committee before his estimates come up so as to allow an intelligent and efficient discussion of them? Second, may I point out to the minister with respect to his reply to the questions yesterday—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nielsen:—that nowhere—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member cannot point out anything in connection with the minister's reply. He can ask a further question if he wishes to do that.

Mr. Nielsen: On a question of privilege or point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Favreau: Which one?

Mr. Nielsen:—the minister has purported to place words in my mouth and alter the record of *Hansard* with respect to the questions I asked him yesterday. If he will refer to them he will find I made no allegations of offences or irregular practice but rather with regard to procedures under the act.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member knows he can ask questions and if he is not satisfied with the reply he gets from the minister he can ask a supplementary question but he cannot comment on a reply he receives from the minister.

Mr. Nielsen: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, if the minister wishes to make such statements he should do so on motions.

Mr. Cardin: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Villeneuve.

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRSVIET NAM—REQUEST FOR CANADIAN TROOPS
TO AID U.S.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.