

Inquiries of the Ministry

we are certain that the results will be excellent and that this committee will be well launched.

If I may say so at this time, I hope similar committees may be set up in the future for an interchange of representatives with other major powers in the world. Even though we may disagree, as we do very violently, with policies that are adopted by countries outside the western world, nevertheless this kind of interchange of ideas among people who are acquainted with governments and, in our instance, people who are responsible in our democratic nations, could do nothing but good.

We welcome this motion wholeheartedly and I am sure that in the country, as in this house, it will receive the overwhelming support of the people of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding with the next item I take it that the Prime Minister does not propose any more formal testing of the opinion of the house than the proposal he has made, which has been concurred in unanimously by the leaders of the parties. I believe that he and they have expressed the unanimous view of the house in this matter.

COMMUNIST CHINA—INQUIRY AS TO SEATING AT UNITED NATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs I wonder whether I may ask this question of the Prime Minister. In the light of the growing influence of red China in international affairs and the apparent increase in support in the United Nations for the seating of red China at the general assembly, can the Prime Minister say whether any consideration has been given to Canada's policy in regard to China, particularly in regard to the seating of red China at the United Nations assembly?

Mr. Speaker: Of course, if the Prime Minister wishes to accept the question I have no objection, but I would point out that this is a question which has been raised from time to time, and it is a matter of policy which I assume the government, when it came to a conclusion, would announce.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on that point this, of course, is a matter of urgency in view of the fact that the United Nations assembly will be meeting tomorrow and this may be the first item on the agenda.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the Leader of the Opposition answered the hon. member

for Assiniboia. It is a hypothetical question. It is only anticipation, as the Leader of the Opposition has said, and certainly in these circumstances it has not yet become a matter that should be the subject of a question on the orders of the day.

COAL

DOMINION COAL COMPANY SURPLUS—TABLING OF PAPERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Comtois (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the information requested by the hon. member for Villeneuve on August 6 with regard to the Dominion Coal Company.

ATOMIC ENERGY

U.S.—CANADA—EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION FOR MUTUAL DEFENCE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence whether any negotiations have been initiated or are contemplated with the United States government with regard to the exchange of information on atomic matters for mutual defence.

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): There have been departmental discussions on this matter, and any exchange has been made on a "need to know" basis.

[Later:]

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence a question arising out of the reply he gave me a few minutes ago. In view of the fact that any exchange of atomic information on defence will be subject, I assume, to the limitations of the United States atomic energy act, is the government negotiating an agreement under that act which will remove those limitations in so far as exchange of information on defensive tactical military weapons is concerned?

Mr. Pearkes: The government is not negotiating any such agreement at the present time.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

ESKIMOS—REQUEST FOR FURTHER REPORTS ON DEATHS AT GARRY LAKE, N.W.T.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. A. Hardie (Mackenzie River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Has the Royal Canadian Air Force headquarters in