

Inquiries of the Ministry

what the final decisions will be in connection with it. Much of the effort which is being made to combat the disease is of necessity experimental and there may be occasions upon which there is some responsibility involved; but so far none has been established. At the moment we are simply making the investigation and in due course the whole matter can be dealt with and announced.

Mr. Black (Cumberland): Mr. Speaker, I understand the outbreak in the maritimes is due to faulty vaccine, not to an ordinary outbreak of the disease.

Mr. Gardiner: No, Mr. Speaker, that is scarcely correct. We would not have been doing anything at all in the maritimes with regard to the disease had there not been an outbreak. The outbreak was there before we were operating at all in the province. There is some question, with regard to certain flocks, as to whether there might have been an outbreak in those flocks had not certain things been done; but that matter has not been cleared up yet.

UNITED NATIONS

ELECTIONS TO SECURITY COUNCIL—VOTE IN ASSEMBLY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. How did Canada vote in the United Nations assembly on December 20 in the contest between Greece and Byelorrussia for election to the United Nations security council?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The vote in these elections in the United Nations is by secret ballot; and I do not think it would accomplish any purpose at this moment if I declared how we voted on this occasion.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Speaker, I know this matter is not debatable, but while the vote is secret in the United Nations assembly I do not see any reason why secrecy should be observed in this House of Commons with regard to a matter which I think is of no little interest to hon. members.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PAYMENT OF STENOGRAPHERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. E. Cardiff (Huron North): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. Owing to the fact that some members of the stenographers' staff find themselves short of cash, and because of the possibility that the house may close tonight, will

[Mr. Gardiner.]

they be expected to report for duty on Monday, and if not, when can they expect their cheques?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): I am afraid that is a matter that falls under the jurisdiction of Mr. Speaker, and not under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Finance. The house vote is there. It is available for the employees of the house in the normal way. I am sure that the office downstairs, including the treasury officer there, will do its utmost to see that not only the members of parliament but the members of the staff receive all that they should receive before the end of the current year.

AUDIBILITY OF DEBATE—SOUND-AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Public Works. Does he contemplate doing anything further with regard to the installation of amplifiers or a public address system in this chamber before the house meets next time?

Hon. Alphonse Fournier (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I wish I could give that assurance to my hon. friend; but in order to sign this contract there have to be two parties, namely the contracting party which does the work and the Department of Public Works. To date we have not reached an agreement. I will tell my officials to do their best to proceed with haste, as they always do.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, it is impossible not to recognize the fact that if there is one minister who can give an unsatisfactory explanation in a satisfactory manner, it is the Minister of Public Works. But I would point out that this subject has been under discussion for many years, and that while it has been under discussion here the House of Commons at Westminster has been rebuilt, that a system of loud speakers has been installed there which is entirely satisfactory, and that in a country which is not usually regarded to live at a tempo equal to that at which we live in our own country, they seem to have done quite a number of things prior even to the installation of the equipment, and then to have been able to put equipment into operation to the complete satisfaction of the members of parliament and everyone who visits Westminster.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): As the leader of the opposition often does, he has spoken with sense this morning. I am not alone in this matter. Had I been alone, I would have installed that system four years ago.

Mr. Drew: Where are you being restrained?