

Would the Prime Minister be willing to meet with officials and representatives of the Canadian Highway Safety Council with a view to bringing about the co-operation of the provinces in this regard, and extending further aid to this council which is doing so much for the people of Canada as a whole?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I shall be very glad indeed to meet this council which, as the right hon. gentleman said, has been doing such good work in this increasingly dangerous field. Of course this is a matter for provincial as well as federal consideration, and the two levels of government are dealing with the matter. In view of what the right hon. gentleman has said I would be glad to have such a meeting, and perhaps to see to it that this matter is brought up at the next federal-provincial conference.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I hope the Prime Minister is willing to meet with the representatives, because I understand they have endeavoured to arrange a meeting and have not had it as yet. Could the Prime Minister give us his assurance that he is willing to have a meeting with these representatives, who after all are doing voluntary work of inestimable value on behalf of this country?

Mr. Pearson: I was not aware of the fact that they had not been able to have a meeting with members of the government. I will look into the matter at once and will be glad to call such a meeting.

TRADE

REQUEST FOR FULLER INFORMATION ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. My question arises from the growing interest of all countries in investment in this country and the fact that the Dominion Bureau of Statistics only prints information on foreign investment of the three leading countries and then uses the words "all other countries". Would it be possible to direct the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to change its practice, with a view to informing the Canadian people promptly, and publish foreign investments from the 10 leading countries of the world?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I will be glad to look into that, Mr. Speaker.

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Inquiries of the Ministry PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

DAMAGE THROUGH BLASTING OPERATIONS ON PARLIAMENT HILL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Public Works. It arises out of an earlier discussion. Was any advice sought and received from experienced and competent engineers before permission was granted to dynamite areas adjacent to the parliament buildings in view of the possibility that damage might be done?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Moreover, I think I should take advantage of the opportunity in answering this question to repeat that not only was an outstanding firm of engineers retained to supervise the actual job, but in addition extra provision was made for them to retain a specialist in explosives. Provision was made for retaining that specialist in addition to the regular type of supervisory work and in addition to paying them their regular fees.

Mr. R. A. Webb (Hastings-Frontenac): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works whether consideration was given to the installation in the foreseeable future of the new thermo-compact heating plants before this major undertaking was commenced.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I should like to take the question as notice because I do not understand precisely what the hon. member means when he makes reference to new thermo-compact heating plants.

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Public Works. May I first of all say that I do not know why this matter caused such hilarity when it was first brought up by the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch) in spite of the fact that it is quite serious. May I ask the minister whether, instead of playing around with a whole staff of engineers, whom of course we need, it would not be just as easy to direct that the charges which are being used be reduced? It seems to me, and I am sure this would be obvious to anyone who is connected or has had any experience with dynamiting, that it is not necessary to use such powerful charges.