

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Can the minister advise the house on the progress of talks between himself and the departmental committee on the one hand, and the representative of the C.N.T.U. and other organizations on the other hand?

[English]

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I can report only that the first of the meetings which I intimated might be taking place has been held. After the meeting of the Canadian Labour Congress in Winnipeg terminates it is expected that an early convenient date will be arranged for a meeting with the representatives of the railway brotherhood, the C.L.C. and other interested labour organizations in order to hear their representations.

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****HAL BANKS—INQUIRY AS TO PROSECUTION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Justice. Some time ago the minister said the question of whether Hal Banks would be recharged and whether extradition proceedings would be taken was under consideration and investigation. In view of the length of time which has elapsed I am wondering whether the minister can report on that matter. He said the documents were tied up in the Supreme Court of Canada.

**Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, it was reported by the Solicitor General that the documents had been released by the supreme court, but that other investigations were being carried out. There has not yet been any decision with regard to whether proceedings will be taken in this case.

**CONSIDERATION OF ROYAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE ORGANIZED CRIME**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister indicated he would be informing the house when replies had been received from the provinces with regard to the setting up of a commission on organized crime. Could he reply now?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Replies are in from all the provinces except one, and I believe that may have come in but if it has I have not yet seen it.

[Mr. Allard.]

My hon. friend will recall that on March 11 the Solicitor General wrote to all provincial attorneys general requesting their views on the subject of the setting up of a royal commission on crime. Nine of the ten provinces, as I have indicated, already have replied. If the tenth, which is Newfoundland, has not replied this morning I am assured the reply will be coming in either this afternoon or tomorrow.

Only the province of Quebec has stated that it definitely is in favour of such a commission. The provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan have expressed the view that a royal commission might be useful, but the remaining six, Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Prince Edward Island have expressed themselves as doubting the need for a commission, although most of them have indicated they are willing to discuss the matter at the next federal-provincial conference if it is desired to put it on the agenda. In this matter the federal government shares the view of the majority of the provinces.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. In view of the Prime Minister's remarks with regard to the desirability of placing the matter on the agenda for the forthcoming dominion-provincial conference, could he inform the house whether the government will be placing this matter on the agenda?

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the replies we have received and in view of the fact that one or two provinces have suggested it might be considered at the next national meeting or conference, we will be glad to place it on the agenda.

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether it will be on the agenda of the meeting which the Prime Minister intimated the other day would be held for approximately two days in British Columbia.

**Mr. Pearson:** The agenda for that meeting has not been decided. We are in communication with the provinces, but as my hon. friend has mentioned it will be a short meeting. There will be another meeting later in the summer or autumn. We may not be able at the meeting in British Columbia to deal with some of the business that we would like to, but the other matters will be on the agenda and will be dealt with at the next meeting.