

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister first whether this has been discussed at any time with the ministers of the Quebec government, either since the announcement was made in the speech from the throne or prior to it and second, what position the Canadian government intends to take regarding this request?

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I realize that this question is perhaps in order but I have some qualms about it inasmuch as it refers to a resolution which I understand is to come before the house later today.

Mr. Douglas: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it has no relationship whatever to the supplementary old age pension question which is to come before the house. As I understand it, the Quebec speech from the throne had regard to the whole field of old age pension legislation, and not merely to this supplementary legislation which is in prospect.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can only say there has been no discussion between myself, or any representative of this government, and the head of the Quebec government since the speech from the throne was delivered in Quebec. It would not be proper for me to comment on that speech. There have been, of course, in earlier days, before the speech from the throne, indeed, over recent years, discussions with governments of Quebec and of other provinces as to the respecting constitutional jurisdiction of the provinces and of the federal government in respect of social security matters, which very often are shared under the constitution.

Mr. Douglas: As a supplementary question, may I ask the Prime Minister whether in the light of this pronouncement by the province of Quebec the federal government proposes to make any changes in the legislation which is to be introduced in this house in the course of the next hour or so?

Mr. Pearson: The legislation is to be proceeded with shortly on the basis of the bill which has been prepared.

CANADIAN CONSTITUTIONPOSSIBILITY OF AMENDMENT AS
CENTENNIAL PROJECT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, now that the right hon. Prime

Minister and his government have had an opportunity to study the throne speech referred to by the hon. member, and the points of view of the other provinces relating to constitutional reform, I should like to ask him whether the government is seriously considering, as a centennial priority, a "made in Canada" constitution for these modern times?

Mr. Pearson: There has been no change in our position in this matter.

Mr. Grafftey: Does the government not feel a definite statement—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Fraser Valley.

LABOUR RELATIONSPACIFIC COAST LONGSHOREMEN DISPUTE—
REQUEST FOR REPORT ON DISCUSSIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I had intended to direct my question to the Minister of Labour, but perhaps in his unavoidable absence I may be permitted to direct it to the right hon. Prime Minister. Could the Prime Minister advise the house concerning the result of the week end discussions carried on by the Minister of Labour in an effort to end the shipping tie-up on the west coast?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I can only say that I have been in touch with the Minister of Labour over the week end. Discussions have taken place. They have been useful discussions and are continuing this morning. I can only hope, as I believe all my hon. friends do, that these discussions will result in a satisfactory conclusion to this very serious dispute.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Has the government received any recommendations from the farm organizations asking that a trusteeship be set up over the B.C. ports, under which the ports would resume operations while the dispute which is causing the disruption is being investigated?

Mr. Pearson: Subject to correction, Mr. Speaker, after checking, I believe I have received a telegram to that effect from the organization mentioned.