

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Yen. Can the right hon. gentleman assure the house today that Nationalist China day on October 10 has not been cancelled?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the visit has not been cancelled. We learned this morning that the vice president who was to come was not able to leave because of the pressure of business. But the vice premier of the government will be arriving and he will carry on as the official representative of that country. We will be very glad indeed to receive him. He will arrive here accompanied by the minister of foreign affairs and the minister of trade, so I think that government will be very well represented in our official centennial celebrations.

**DEFENCE PRODUCTION****CONTRACTS FOR NEW DESTROYERS—SALE OF SONAR EQUIPMENT TO ROYAL NAVY**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Defence Production, but first I would quickly say "St. Louis 2, Boston 1; game over". Has the decision yet been made with regard to the contracts for the lead yards for the new destroyers; and if so, what is it?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry):** Mr. Speaker, it is expected that tenders will be called within a relatively short period. Decisions have been made as to which yards are judged to be competent to act as lead yards, and this decision has been communicated to the yards concerned.

**Mr. McCleave:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister tell us which are the lead yards?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest that this question cannot be asked.

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Calgary North asked a question with respect to a report appearing in the United Kingdom press about Canadian designed sonar. The United Kingdom procured eight variable depth sonars from Canada which were produced by E.M.I. Cossor, Halifax, on a joint production line for the Royal Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy. These equipments are in service with the Royal Navy, and there is no indication that their performance is unsatisfactory. On the contrary, the United Kingdom decided to procure additional systems to fit a further eight

[Mr. Johnston.]

ships and made arrangements with Canada to establish a production line in the United Kingdom. Production of these additional equipments is now under way and Canadian contractors are supplying various components for the new systems. The contractor in the United Kingdom, Cossor, has written a protest to the *Daily Telegraph* for the unwarranted news report.

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I just wish to express my satisfaction that these reports have been found to be incorrect.

I have a supplementary question in regard to the tenders for the destroyer contracts. What was the reason for the long delay in these tenders being sent out?

**Mr. Drury:** There have been extensive consultations with the shipbuilding industry to devise, in agreement with them, a more effective and efficient method of calling for tenders than we have had in the past. Agreement has now been reached. These consultations have not led to any delay in the construction of the vessels.

**CANADIAN CONFEDERATION****SUGGESTED SURVEY TO ASCERTAIN QUEBEC OPINION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Having in mind the current concern over Canadian unity and the lack of any real knowledge of the feeling of the population of Quebec on this matter, my question is as follows. Could consideration be given to determining their sentiments by means of conducting an impartial survey of Quebec opinion.

**WATER RESOURCES****PEMBINA RIVER—INQUIRY AS TO COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. George Muir (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I think the minister will remember he promised to give me an answer to a question I asked him with regard to the possible start of construction, under the supervision of the International Joint Commission, of the Pembina river project in Manitoba and North Dakota.