

Inquiries of the Ministry

(Translation):

SASKATCHEWANRESERVATION OF LEGISLATION RESPECTING
MINING CONTRACTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State or, in his absence, to the acting minister.

Is it true that the lieutenant-governor of Saskatchewan, Mr. Frank L. Bastedo, has reserved a bill on behalf of the crown concerning the right to renegotiate certain ore contracts with private corporations?

(Text):

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think I might most appropriately answer that question. The first information the government received on this matter was on Saturday, when the lieutenant governor telephoned the under secretary of state that he had reserved a bill of the Saskatchewan legislature for the signification of the Governor General's pleasure. The bill, I am informed, purports to empower the provincial government to alter mining contracts and is entitled the Mining Rights Alteration Act.

We have no other information on the matter. There was no consultation in advance in any way, and any action in this regard would be taken by the lieutenant governor himself.

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIESMONTREAL—REPORTED ARREST UNDER OFFICIAL
SECRETS ACT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General and Acting Minister of Justice. Is the minister in a position to confirm the arrest of a Montreal engineer allegedly charged with an offence under the Official Secrets Act?

Hon. W. J. Browne (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, according to the information of the Department of Justice a landed immigrant residing in Montreal was arrested by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police last night under the Official Secrets Act. He is appearing in court today. Under these circumstances I believe it would be improper to make any further comment on the matter.

COMMUNICATIONSWINDSOR, ONT.—REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT
OF BILINGUAL TELEGRAPH PERSONNEL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. W. Martin (Timmins): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Min-
[Mr. Browne (St. John's West).]

ister of Transport. In view of the report in *Le Devoir* of April 6 to the effect that in Windsor, Ontario, a city of 35 per cent French speaking people, it is impossible to telephone a telegram in French to the Canadian National Telegraphs office, would the minister make urgent representations to the C.N.R. to the effect that bilingual persons in a reasonable proportion be employed at the C.N.T. offices in Windsor and in other comparable localities across Canada?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I shall be pleased to make such a representation to the management of the C.N.R.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

ISSUE OF STAMPS TO CASUAL EMPLOYEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour, notice of which I sent to his office this morning. In the absence of the minister I would ask that the question be taken as notice by his parliamentary secretary.

Will the minister advise the house whether instructions have been issued by the unemployment insurance commission to all post offices throughout the country to discontinue the issuance of unemployment insurance stamps for casual employees. If so, on what date were such instructions issued, and does this mean that U.I.C. form 419-C has now been discontinued?

Mr. R. D. Thrasher (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, notice of this question was brought to my attention just before I entered the house. I have asked for the information, and it will be given tomorrow.

NATIONAL DEFENCEINQUIRY AS TO CONTRACTS WITH MONTREAL
ENGINEERING FIRM

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister say whether the Montreal engineering firm of Surveyer, Nenniger and Chenevert is engaged in performing any contracts for the Department of National Defence or Defence Construction Limited?

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member has not given notice perhaps he will put his question on the order paper.