

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

the Minister of Labour and to ask him the nature of the meeting which is to be convened next week between representatives of agriculture and of labour; the purpose of that meeting; and also the identity of those invited.

**Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, a conference has been arranged for next week under the sponsorship of the national advisory council on manpower. The object of the one-day conference is to discuss the problems facing the farm implement industry. It will be a meeting of three representatives of organized labour directly employed in the farm implement industry; three representatives of management in the farm implement industry; three representatives of organized agriculture; and three representatives of government departments, namely trade and commerce, agriculture and labour.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I would like to ask a supplementary question. Is it the intention of the Department of Labour to provide for similar meetings for other industries affected by unemployment?

**Mr. Gregg:** Mr. Speaker, I must admit that this conference on Tuesday is by way of an experiment in regard to an industry in which it is possible to bring together easily representatives from the three groups related to the industry, namely management, labour and consumer. Obviously in the case of the textile industry, for example, it would not be so easy to do that and, consequently, before giving a direct reply to my hon. friend's question I would rather wait and see what comes out of next Tuesday's meeting.

**DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**

SUGGESTED REAPPOINTMENT OF ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN 1945-46

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, on Monday last I asked a question as to whether the government had made any decision as a result of the suggestion put forward by the premier of Ontario that the dominion-provincial economic committee be reappointed. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott), speaking for himself, said he had not been able to give any consideration to that suggestion. May I ask the Prime Minister if the government has been able to take the matter into consideration? If so, has any decision been arrived at?

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the matter has not been discussed in council and, of course, no decision has been arrived at.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

**Mr. Fulton:** May I then ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the suggestion made by the premier of Ontario as to the purpose that might be accomplished by the reappointment of such a committee, the government will take it into consideration and announce a decision in due course?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Mr. Speaker, the matter will certainly be considered, but it would not be practical to consider it in all its aspects without the presence of the Minister of Finance. My hon. friend will realize that between now and April 6 the Minister of Finance has to deal with things which are perhaps not more important but which do happen to be rather more urgent in view of the fact that he has declared the budget will be brought down on April 6.

**CRIMINAL LAW**

PROTECTION FOR WITNESSES APPEARING BEFORE COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Has the minister's attention been drawn to a report in today's *Globe and Mail* to the effect that a columnist's article which attacked capital punishment has resulted in a Vancouver publisher, editor, and columnist being cited for contempt of court? If so, I would like to ask the minister, in view of that, what protection a witness speaking in a similar vein before the joint committee of this house on capital punishment would enjoy?

**Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, my attention has not been drawn to the article in question, and before expressing any opinion concerning it I would like to read that article and ascertain the facts.

**ATOMIC ENERGY**

DEVELOPMENT FOR POWER PURPOSES IN NEW BRUNSWICK

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. A. W. Stuart (Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Defence Production (Mr. Howe) I would like to direct a question to his parliamentary assistant. Has the federal government received any representations from the provincial government of New Brunswick in connection with the development of atomic energy for power purposes in that province?

**Mr. J. H. Dickey (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Defence Production):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the minister I