

POWER

COLUMBIA RIVER—APPROVAL OF RATIFICATION
OF TREATY

On the order: Government notices of motion:

June 1—The Secretary of State for External Affairs—The following proposed motion:—That it is expedient that the Houses of Parliament do approve the ratification of the treaty between Canada and the United States of America relating to co-operative development of the water resources of the Columbia river basin, signed at Washington on January 17, 1961, and the consequent coming into force of the protocol thereto annexed to the exchange of notes signed at Washington on January 22, 1964, and that this house do approve the same.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to section 2 of standing order 21 this government notice of motion is transferred to and ordered for consideration under government orders later this day.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CENTENNIAL SYMBOL

Question No. 767—Mr. Prittie:

Concerning the competition announced by the Secretary of State for a centennial symbol for 1967, does the government plan to establish a house committee on artistic design to make the final selection?

Mr. Lamontagne: It is not the intention to establish a house committee on artistic design to make the final selection for a centennial symbol for 1967.

*ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FIREARMS

Question No. 933—Mr. Fisher:

1. Is there any committee of, or named by the Department of Justice, designed to advise on the law and regulations regarding the use of firearms and, if so, when was it constituted and who are the members?

2. Is the chief constables association of Canada represented on the committee?

Mr. Favreau: Because of the wide interest that attaches to this matter I think I should explain the situation in a little detail rather than attempt a "yes" or "no" answer. I should perhaps remind hon. members that I spoke to this matter very briefly in the house on March 9 last in reply to a question from the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich.

The firearms sections of the Criminal Code have for a long time been the subject of great interest and representations on the part of those who, on the one hand, think they are not

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strict enough and those who, on the other hand, think they are too strict.

Early in 1960 an informal committee was set up to study such provisions comprising representatives of the legal branch of the Department of Justice, the Department of National Revenue, the R.C.M. Police and the Canadian association of chiefs of police. This committee has given the matter considerable study as has also the criminal law section of the conference of commissioners on uniformity of legislation in Canada, but no decisions have been reached by the department as to what amendments should be put forward because, mainly, of the conflicting views and representations above referred to. That informal committee has been inactive since last fall and there are no plans for reconvening it. In the meantime my department continues to study these provisions in connection with the continuing Criminal Code amendment program.

I wish therefore to assure all persons who are interested in the subject matter that it is completely open for consideration of any views that anyone desires to place before the department. I hope that, besides answering the question, this reply will serve to quiet the fears that appear to have been aroused that the department intends to recommend far reaching amendments which will have an unduly restrictive effect upon the legitimate activities of sportsmen and antique collectors.

HIGHWAY PAVING, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY, N.S.

Question No. 978—Mr. Armstrong:

1. Where are the 46 miles of highway in Guysborough county, Nova Scotia, which are still to be paved under the roads to resources program?

2. Which stretches of this highway are to be paved in 1964-65?

3. If any contracts have been made, with whom have they been made?

Mr. Laing: 1. Approximately two thirds of the 67 mile Goldborough loop has, at the request of the province, been approved for paving; of this, work is already largely or entirely complete on the section from Goshen to a point just east of Seal Harbour, leaving a balance of approximately five miles under the present arrangements.

2 and 3. The planning and scheduling of construction is the responsibility of the province, subject to the approval of contract awards by the federal government. In July, 1963, a contract to Warren Maritimes Limited was approved for paving from Drumhead to the Torbay road, a distance of approximately