

Inquiries of the Ministry

• (2:40 p.m.)

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to substitute a totally new principle as the basis for dissolution of marriage. The bill substitutes for the concept of matrimonial offences the concept of the irretrievable break-up of a marriage. As the house knows, generally speaking adultery is still the sole ground for divorce. There are a number of bills before the joint committee on divorce which would expand the grounds. It is proposed in this bill to substitute a new principle altogether which has been put forward to the committee by the United Church of Canada. The purpose of the bill is to codify this new approach.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

FINANCE**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF TASK FORCE TO STUDY FOREIGN OWNERSHIP**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the order in council setting up the task force under the chairmanship of the Minister without Portfolio, the former minister of finance, has been tabled as yet. Is the Prime Minister able to say whether the order of reference will be wide enough to enable this task force to study foreign ownership and foreign investment in Canada, and in particular whether the infringement of sovereignty represented by this government's agreement to the guide lines laid down in Washington will form part of the investigation?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No order in council has been passed setting up the task force. Indeed, I doubt whether an order in council is required for an inquiry of this type. However, I will look into that. In any event, none has been passed yet.

As to the terms of reference of the proposed inquiry being supervised by the committee of ministers, perhaps I could read the sentence which covers this matter:

As a further measure,—

Following the steps that have been taken in respect of guide lines.

—a committee of ministers has now been set up to examine the structure of Canadian industry, with special reference to foreign ownership and control—

The study will include the significance—both political and economic—of foreign investment in the development of our country, as well as ways

[Mr. Brewin.]

to encourage greater Canadian ownership of our industrial resources while retaining a climate favourable to the inflow of foreign investment—

These are the terms of reference which will guide the committee in its work, and the interdepartmental committee has a task force which will be working with it.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, is the press correct in its belief that in this set-up the Minister of Finance will occupy a supernumerary position that he may watch over the former minister of finance, the present Minister without Portfolio? If so, who then is charged with watching the present Minister of Finance.

Mr. Pearson: The right hon. gentleman seems to have a very suspicious mind these days.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): May I ask a supplementary question in two parts, Mr. Speaker. Are there to be any more specific terms of reference for the cabinet committee or task force? Second, does the appointment of this cabinet committee in any way involve any delay in proceeding with legislation to set up the Canada Development Corporation, or can the Prime Minister assure the house it is the intention of the government to proceed with this legislation either at this session or during the new session?

Mr. Pearson: On the first point, I think the terms of reference are quite adequate for the kind of inquiry the cabinet, through a committee of ministers wishes to make. In answer to the second part of the question, I will be making a statement on motions tomorrow about a program of legislation for the rest of this session and after prorogation for the new session, which will probably go some way to answer my hon. friend's inquiry.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question. May I ask the Prime Minister, first, whether the task force referred to which is to work in turn with an interdepartmental committee of senior civil servants, will be made up of economists from outside the government service, and how soon we may expect a report as to the personnel of this task force. Second, when is the white paper resulting from this investigation likely to be placed before the House of Commons?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the task force, which has not yet been set up but which will be very shortly, will consist of economists from outside the government service, experts