

moment to congratulate him on his appointment to an office involving an important task. Can the Minister tell the house whether the government proposes to bring in a white paper on immigration, refer it to a committee of the house, and subsequently introduce a thoroughgoing revision of the Immigration Act, as I think was indicated or promised by his predecessor in this house at the last session?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. Member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) for his congratulations.

It is definitely the intention of the department to carry on preparatory work to bring in a white paper on immigration. However, it will be readily understood that I am not in a position to do so very quickly because of present circumstances, and this is not only due to the fact that I am the new head of this department, but also because the department is undergoing structural and administrative changes. In any case, we shall do everything we can to speed up the preparatory work of this white paper and we will try to see to it that any delay is justifiable before the house.

On the other hand, we would not want any flaw to be attributed to too much haste in the preparation of this white paper. As soon as it is ready I think it would be perfectly normal to refer it to an appropriate committee of the house.

[English]

THE CABINET

ORDERS IN COUNCIL RESPECTING TRANSFER OF DUTIES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether, consequent upon the reorganization of the cabinet, the usual orders in council dealing with the transfer of duties have been passed. If so, will the Prime Minister be good enough to table them for the information of the house, and are they now in effect?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, the orders in council have been passed and they have been tabled.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, there must be some misunderstanding. The Prime Minister informed us that he was tabling copies of letters offering and accepting resignations, but I do not recall anything being said with respect to the orders in council transferring

Inquiries of the Ministry

the duties, and I think that is what parliament would like to know about. What are the precise duties of the new ministers?

Mr. Pearson: I think my hon. friend is right. They were not referred to when I rose on motions and tabled certain orders and statements but they were tabled earlier under the new procedure. It is not necessary now under the new rules to table them in the way we formerly tabled them.

An hon. Member: What new rules?

Mr. Pearson: These are rules which are new only in the sense that they were passed last session.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Nonsense.

[Later:]

Mr. Fulton: Would the Prime Minister be good enough to have a check made of the records of the Privy Council office? I do not wish to embarrass anyone, but I am informed that they are unable to locate the orders in council downstairs, and they have not been tabled.

Mr. Pearson: I certainly will, and if I was wrong in my statement I will apologize to my hon. friend.

[Later:]

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Did the government not agree during the last parliament, at the time certain functions were moved in or out of the Department of Agriculture, to publish in the Canada Gazette, Part II, orders in council passed under the Public Service Rearrangement and Transfer of Duties Act? If so, is not that course still being followed by the government?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to look into that matter and reply tomorrow.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

INQUIRY AS TO EXTENSION OF DESIGNATED AREAS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry in relation to the program to encourage industry to locate in specific areas of Canada. Is it the intention of the government to extend or enlarge these areas in the near future, particularly in regard to the inclusion of the northern areas of provinces where there is a very high degree of unemployment among the Indian people?