

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. A question of law cannot be answered in the house, and I want to say at the same time that what the right hon. gentleman has said is not correct. It is quite different, because section 91 (1), involving matters of federal jurisdiction, is now going to come in part under the provincial legislatures, and this was not so in the formula we put forward.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman has disputed my right to answer this question, and has also disputed the accuracy of the answer. In case he has some doubt about accepting my word may I quote what the premier of Manitoba said the other day on this matter. I refer to the *Winnipeg Tribune* of October 24, where Mr. Roblin is reported in quotes as saying:

"The delegation provisions of the draft are exactly the same as under the Fulton formula. That is why those who say it was a put-up job are completely wrong."

Including my right hon. friend.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: May I say at once that is not a question of privilege.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: May I also say at once that the words uttered by the Prime Minister are false. The fact is that the premier of Manitoba made no reference whatever to me in the course of his remarks. That is false, and the Prime Minister knows it.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I would not like to do any injustice to my right hon. friend. When I quoted the remarks of the premier of Manitoba, the quotation as taken from the *Winnipeg Tribune* ended with the words:

That is why those who say it was a put-up job are completely wrong.

That was the end of the quotation. When I said "including my right hon. friend" that was my observation.

Mr. Diefenbaker: And, Mr. Speaker, if the Prime Minister could have got way with that falsity he would have done so.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Pickersgill: Temper, temper.

Mr. Monteith: Who is getting red in the face?

[Mr. Pearson.]

Mr. Diefenbaker: The Minister of Transport must not get annoyed. Doctor's orders.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I say I had expected an interesting afternoon, but not quite as exciting as this.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

NON-PARTICIPATION BY INDIANS IN
DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration I would like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister, relating to the dominion-provincial conference taking place today on Indian affairs. Has the right hon. gentleman knowledge of any objections by native Indian organizations and people to the fact that this meeting is being held without their presence? Further, I ask whether he does not think this is justification for opening the meeting to native Indian people so that at least, in accordance with their rights, they may attend as observers?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the normal procedure in meetings of this kind is being followed, but I shall be glad to look into my right hon.—my hon.—friend's question and see if anything can be done.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the right hon. gentleman for my promotion.

COMBINES

BRITISH COLUMBIA—REPRESENTATIONS
RESPECTING AUTOMOBILE PARTS AND
ACCESSORIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to ask the Minister of Justice. Has the minister received an appeal from the automotive retailers association of B.C. urging immediate action to correct abuses in the distribution of gasoline, tires, batteries and accessories and, if so, is he considering taking action on this urgent appeal?

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I have received some representations in this respect, and I am pleased to state that the matter is receiving active consideration. I expect to be in a position in the near future to make known the policy of the government with respect to the recom-