

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

and for the dispatch with which that administration is prepared to consider problems of interest to both Canada and the United States. I hope the meeting will be successful, and that any future discussions with the Kennedy administration will have to do with defence and external affairs problems and, I must say, I hope very fervently that some arrangements may be arrived at in the field of the export of agricultural commodities.

The announcement of the Prime Minister is welcome. We hope that much will result from this meeting.

**STATISTICS ACT**

AMENDMENT RESPECTING DISTINCTIVE FLAG AND NATIONAL ANTHEM

**Mr. Yvon Dupuis (St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville)** moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-60, to amend the Statistics Act (distinctive flag and national anthem).

**Some hon. Members:** Explain.

*(Translation):*

**Mr. Dupuis:** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to authorize the governor in council to conduct a public opinion survey on the occasion of the next decennial census in Canada, concerning an entirely distinctive national flag and national anthem.

Since the census forms have to go back to press shortly, it would be a fine opportunity to include those two questions in order to learn the wishes of the Canadian people on this matter of great current interest.

*(Text):*

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**COAL**

CAPE BRETON—REPORTED CLOSING OF THREE COLLIERIES

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Is it a fact that the government has accepted as final the dates of closure for three collieries in Cape Breton, and has reached an agreement with the company which rules out discussions with the unions and civic bodies on the future of those three collieries?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** That is a rather lengthy question and one that would require a very long and complicated reply. However, I shall examine the question in detail and when it is considered appropriate to give a full answer it will be given.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** May I ask a supplementary question. Since the first question

seems to be too complicated for the Prime Minister's comprehension, may I ask him a more simple one. Did the officers of the united mine workers seek to arrange a meeting with the Prime Minister, and was such a meeting turned down by the Prime Minister or some other member of the government?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The last question the hon. member propounded bears no relationship at all to the first, although it is couched in fewer words than ordinarily are used by the hon. gentleman to state a simple question. In so far as that question is concerned, I may say that there have been meetings from time to time and those meetings will continue when and if it is believed that anything beneficial will result therefrom.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Do I understand the Prime Minister to say that he has had such meetings with the unions, because my understanding is that is not the case.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The hon. gentleman's understanding is something for which I am not responsible.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance of this matter I should like to ask the Prime Minister—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order; I am sorry, but I recognized the hon. member for Chicoutimi.

*(Translation):*

**LABOUR CONDITIONS**

CHICOUTIMI—WINTER WORKS ADVERTISEMENTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Vincent Brassard (Chicoutimi):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Labour. Could he tell me who is responsible for the outdoor advertising of the winter works program and how is it that in a city like Chicoutimi where 99½ per cent of the people are French-speaking, all outdoor panels to promote winter employment are in English only? I wonder what would happen if such advertisements were displayed in French in Toronto?

*(Text):*

**Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour):** The hon. member gave me notice of his intention to ask this question. I should like to advise the hon. member that the outdoor panels relating to the "Do it now" winter employment campaign to which he refers are made available by the Department of Labour to the outdoor advertising association in both English and French. These panels are then supplied by the association as a public service to its member companies. The panels are available in both English and French, depending upon what the member company