

at the meetings of the Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth?

[Translation]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No.

[English]

BANKRUPTCY ACT REVISION

Question No. 1,238—**Mr. Fortin:**

1. What is the present stage of the work of the committee in charge of revising the Bankruptcy Act?

2. When will the new Act be introduced?

3. How many bankruptcies were there, by province, for each of the last six months?

4. What steps are being taken by the government to prevent fraudulent bankruptcies?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): 1. I am advised that the Committee in charge of revising the Bankruptcy Act expects to have its report as well as a draft Bill revising the Bankruptcy Act ready by the end of the present year.

2. As soon as the report of the Committee is available, it will receive my immediate attention.

Questions

3. See attached Schedule.

4. In July of 1966, important amendments to the Bankruptcy Act were passed by Parliament which, among other things, empowered the Superintendent of Bankruptcy to investigate cases where it is suspected that offences to the Bankruptcy Act, the Criminal Code or any other Act of the Parliament of Canada have been committed.

The Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy was subsequently reorganized and regional offices were opened in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver which are staffed with professional accountants and investigators. In addition, the Superintendent of Bankruptcy makes extensive use of the services of the R.C.M. Police.

The complaints received by the Superintendent of Bankruptcy in 1968 totalled 279. Of these, 56 were referred to the R.C.M. Police for investigation while 223 were handled by the staff of the Bankruptcy Branch. During 1968, a total of approximately 50 charges were laid on behalf of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy in matters relating to bankruptcy.