

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

it was said that when it was modified it would probably not be appropriate for Northern Ireland to be specially mentioned in the title and the other units of the commonwealth lumped together under a general description; and that possibly when consideration was being given to any change in the title there would not be merely the elimination of the reference to Ireland. I know of nothing else that could be any semblance of justification for the story that was shown me last night by a member of the press gallery.

**Mr. Adamson:** May I ask the Prime Minister a supplementary question? The title of His Majesty was actually changed some years ago, was it not?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** It was changed some years ago, but since that time the republic of Ireland has ceased to be a member of the commonwealth. It is my impression—I have not the text before me—that the title still reads: "King of Great Britain, Ireland," and so on. It was felt that some change would have to be made there, and it might not be appropriate to substitute for "Ireland" the term "Northern Ireland" and leave the other units of the commonwealth lumped together as "The British dominions beyond the seas."

**Mr. Adamson:** The change I am thinking of, Mr. Speaker, is in regard to the Indian empire. I am looking at a 1940 five-cent piece; now, our coinage omits the Latin abbreviation "Ind. Imp." I think the change was made in 1947.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Yes, and that change was assented to in this parliament by a special act, as is now required by the provisions of the Statute of Westminster.

**THE SENATE**

## INQUIRY AS TO FILLING OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND VACANCIES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. J. Browne (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that over a year has elapsed since the act of union between Newfoundland and Canada, and there are still three vacancies in the Senate to which Newfoundland is entitled, when does the government propose to make these three appointments?

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the government is giving very serious consideration to a number of candidates, and I can assure the hon. member that he will not be omitted.

**Mr. McLure:** Since we are on the subject of new appointments to the Senate, I should like to address a question to the Prime

Minister. We have a vacancy in Queens county, and I should like to know from the Prime Minister when that vacancy will be filled.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** It is not to my knowledge that there is a vacancy in Queens county. It is to my knowledge that there is a vacancy in the province of Prince Edward Island, and when a decision has been reached with respect to it I will, without any delay whatsoever, bring it to the attention of this house.

**SUPPLY**

**Hon. Alphonse Fournier (Minister of Public Works)** moved that the house go into committee of supply.

## COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN CANADA

**Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, events of the past few days have suggested the desirability of the immediate consideration of communist activities here in Canada, and the steps which should be taken to deal with the activities of persons who subscribe to those doctrines.

On March 7 of last year I wrote to the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent). At that time I pointed out to him that certain events had indicated the desirability of some action to deal with communist activities in this country. After outlining statements made by communist leaders in France, Italy, Australia, Britain and the United States, I suggested the desirability of taking immediate steps to amend the Criminal Code so that legal authority might exist to deal effectively with those who were seeking to undermine our democratic way of life in this country.

The letter was written at the time for the purpose of indicating to the Prime Minister that I proposed to ask a question in regard to this subject, and to ascertain whether it was the intention of the government to deal with the matter. At that time the Prime Minister stated that the subject was under consideration by the Department of Justice, and that in due course we would be informed as to the result of that discussion. More than a year has passed, and as yet no indication has been given by the government as to the course it proposes to follow in dealing with this very important subject.

Cabinet ministers and others have made a number of statements condemning communism in the most unrestrained terms, and this condemnation has gained increasing force within the past few weeks. If these words are intended to mean what they do mean in the ordinary interpretation, then the time