year period and that the commencement of construction of a number of institutions should be postponed accordingly.

In the result, after consideration of the relative requirements for inmate accommodation in the various regions of Canada, it was decided that the institution at Drumheller was one of those of which the commencement of construction could be postponed until the fiscal year 1964-65, and that decision was approved by treasury board. I am informed now that there is no intention of changing the decision.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

QUEBEC—ACTION TO TEST LEGALITY OF CORONER'S ACT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice which has to do with the concern over the rights of arrested persons in Montreal. In the light of the apparent contradiction between the coroner's act of Quebec and the Criminal Code and bill of rights, as illustrated by recent events, and in the light of doubts expressed by competent constitutional authorities, will the minister take immediate steps to have the constitutionality of the coroner's act tested in the courts?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. member for having sent me notice of his question, and the reply is as follows. The Canadian Bill of Rights is expressed to apply to every law of Canada, which expression is defined by section 5(2) of the act to mean an act of the parliament of Canada, any order, rule or regulation made thereunder, and any law in force in Canada or in any part of Canada that is subject to be repealed, abolished or altered by the parliament of Canada. There is, therefore, no contradiction between the Canadian Bill of Rights and the coroner's act of Quebec, and thus no case for referring the act to the courts.

(Translation):

[*Later:*]

REPRESENTATIONS BY UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS RESPECTING SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Temiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should also like to put a question to the Minister of Justice.

Does the minister intend to put into effect the recommendation carried at the convention of the Canadian university professors' association held in Quebec, asking for a complete review of procedures concerning state security and intelligence.

[Mr. Chevrier.]

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the recommendations mentioned by the hon. member for Pontiac-Temiscamingue; I would prefer to see them before giving an opinion on the subject.

[*Later:*]

I should like to reply to the question asked by the hon. member for Pontiac-Temiscamingue (Mr. Martineau), who was kind enough to send me the newspaper clipping stating that the resolution he was talking about and the representations made by the association of university professors had already been sent to me in a letter. I contacted that association to let them know that I was ready to meet them this week but, unfortunately, the meeting could not be arranged. Under the circumstances, I would prefer to refrain from making any statement on that matter until I have once again been in touch with the association in question.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

CONFERENCE RESPECTING TAXATION RIGHTS AND JOINT PROGRAMS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

Does the government intend to convene a federal-provincial conference this year in order to consider the means of giving back to the provinces their taxation rights and also to review the matter of the famous joint programs?

(Text):

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as already stated in the house it is the intention of the government to call a conference of provincial premiers and federal government representatives this year.

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of the province of Quebec's apparent refusal to participate in the federal municipal loan fund legislation, will the Prime Minister assure the house that the legislation will include a compensation formula for provinces that do not wish to apply to the federal government for such loans to municipalities?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend's question is based on a premise which is not necessarily correct.