

HOSPITAL INSURANCE ACT

Motion No. 2—Mr. Martin (Essex East):

For a copy of all correspondence, telegrams and other documents exchanged between the federal government and the provinces of Canada since January 1, 1957, in respect of matters having to do with the hospital insurance act enacted by parliament on April 10, 1957.

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to the tabling of this correspondence, subject, of course, to the usual reservation with regard to receiving permission from the provinces. I would point out, however, that on February 4, 1957 some correspondence with the province of Ontario was tabled and that on March 26 some additional correspondence up to that date was also tabled, and I presume the hon. member would not wish those particular items to be tabled again.

Mr. Speaker: Subject to the limitation expressed by the minister, is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Motion agreed to.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

CAPE BRETON NAVAL BASE—LAY-OFF OF
CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. L. Houck (Niagara Falls): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Defence, but perhaps the acting minister would answer the question in his absence.

Considering the fact that there are approximately 800 persons presently laid off at the Sydney steel plant, would the minister consider cancelling a previous directive ordering a lay-off of some 112 civilian employees at the Point Edward naval base at Cape Breton, of whom 80 per cent to 90 per cent are returned veterans?

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Defence is away attending a funeral, as the house will know, but I will draw his attention to this question on his return and endeavour to have an answer for the hon. member at an early date.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES—REPORTED ACTION OF
SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Has the attention of the minister been drawn to the front page report in this morning's *Globe and Mail* to the effect that the United States Senate internal security subcommittee is reviving the E. Herbert Norman case in a prelude to a full-dress defence of its investigation of our Canadian diplomats, including Mr. Bryce.

If so, is his department contemplating making any representation to the responsible department in Washington, and, should the investigation be proceeded with, will Canada's position be made abundantly clear on this matter?

Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in reply to this question I must state at the outset that I have not seen the report which has been prepared pursuant to the direction of that committee of the United States Senate. All I can depend on are the newspaper reports. Assuming that these are accurate I must say that I resent an additional occurrence of ex parte proceedings, leaving behind innuendos against Canadian citizens.

For example: I have known Mr. Bryce for a long time and I have a high regard for him. According to this morning's newspaper he made the statement that he has nothing to hide, and I endorse that statement on behalf of Mr. Bryce.

One aspect of this matter concerns my department. Hon. members will recall that on April 10 last year our ambassador in Washington, acting on the instructions of the Canadian government, presented a note to the United States government regarding the procedures which had been followed intermittently by the internal security subcommittee, a subcommittee of a committee of the United States Senate, in releasing the names of Canadians who had been mentioned in its proceedings and particularly in its executive sessions. I am going to take the time of the house to read a part of that note:

The Canadian government has more than once complained of the methods employed by that subcommittee in releasing the names of Canadians and has stated that if the names of Canadian officials appear in evidence before investigating committees in Washington, those names should be sent in confidence to the Canadian government so that the allegations can be investigated and dealt with in Canada.

This procedure requested by the Canadian government has, however, never been followed and references made in proceedings of the subcommittee to individual Canadians have not been made known to the Canadian government except through the press.

As the United States government knows, the Canadian government finds the procedures adopted by the subcommittee with respect to Canadians difficult to understand, unfair and indeed intolerable. The Canadian government therefore requests