

*Inquiries of the Ministry***SPORTS**

GUELPH, ONT.—ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL TRAINING COLLEGE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): I wish to direct to the Minister of National Health and Welfare a question arising out of comments he made this afternoon concerning the funds to be spent in connection with the act to promote fitness and amateur sports. Has any arrangement been made to establish a national training college or a centre for coaches at Guelph?

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): In answer to that question, Mr. Speaker, I think all I can say at the moment is that the matter is certainly under consideration. When a decision is reached, of course, an announcement will be made.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

COLUMBIA RIVER—REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the serious charges made against the conduct of this government by General McNaughton, one who has dedicated himself to the public service of our country and who was appointed by a Conservative government—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Martin (Essex East):—may I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether, in view of the fact that he is in charge of this matter, as he himself said today, he would agree to have the external affairs committee set up forthwith under our procedure so that General McNaughton could make the charges, as he has requested, before that committee, and give the House of Commons an opportunity of examining into the nature and the validity of those charges.

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has already given the assurance that before the treaty is ratified it will be referred to the standing committee on external affairs, and at that time I would hope that General McNaughton could be called and give whatever evidence he wishes.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Does the hon. gentleman expect that would take place before the dissolution of parliament?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): About a year and a half or two years ago, and there have been other meetings with Professor Hallstein. I have seen Professor Hallstein at various meetings in Paris since that time. The hon. member does not need to think that there are not meetings going on from time to time. Things can happen without his knowledge. We find a great many things happening without his knowledge.

Mr. Hees: And most things do. He is in a complete fog most of the time.

Mr. Chevrier: Who, the Minister of Finance?

Mr. Hees: No, the member for Essex East.

Mr. Pearson: A supplementary question. Is it a fact that Professor Hallstein can come to Ottawa if he invites himself?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question is perhaps hypothetical.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, this question is just about on a par so far as responsibility is concerned with the question just asked by the hon. member for Essex East. Professor Hallstein will, of course, always be welcome in Ottawa any time he wishes to come.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillington): Mr. Speaker, if the minister's esprit d'escalier is completed perhaps I could ask him if it is true that the British government has intimated to the government of Canada that if they are not successful in joining the common market they intend to renew the free trade offer to Canada?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): No, sir. Another wild conjecture.

[*And the Clerk Assistant having called the first order of business*]

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, the Clerk Assistant seems very enthusiastic this evening. I should like to ask—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): He wants to get on with the business.

Mr. Pickersgill: Well, perhaps the Prime Minister, to use his own words, would allow us a few minutes to ask questions.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is not necessary for the hon. member to comment. If he will put his question, I am sure the house will hear him.