

Inquiries of the Ministry
CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT METHOD AT
 DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the subject of finding a way in which to amend the Canadian constitution in Canada been placed on the agenda for the meeting of the federal government with the provinces in Charlottetown early in September; and can the Prime Minister tell us anything further with regard to this matter at this time?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think I have already announced that this is a matter which will be discussed at Charlottetown at the federal-provincial meeting, although that meeting will be primarily ceremonial in character to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Charlottetown conference. This is the only matter on the agenda at the moment, and it will be discussed there.

Mr. Knowles: As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, if agreement is reached to arrange for the constitution to be amended in Canada, will the necessary enactment be made in another country or will it be made in Canada as a sign of our sovereignty.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I am sure it will have to be made in the proper constitutional way. I would like to look into the matter to find out what that way is, and perhaps I could say something about it tomorrow.

TRADE

JAPAN—CONTROL OF FABRIC EXPORTS
 TO CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Trade and Commerce, depending on which minister is in charge of the negotiations I have in mind. Can the minister now inform the house on the results of negotiations with the government of Japan relating to their exports of certain classes of textiles to Canada?

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I had a similar question the other day and I promised to give a statement to the house as soon as I was in a posi-

[Mr. Favreau.]

tion to do so. I am not yet in a position to do so.

Mr. Grafftey: A supplementary question. Could the minister tell the house whether the government of Japan have informed the Canadian government that they cannot enforce a formal agreed quota in this regard, but that they will not allow their exports to rise beyond 20 per cent above last year's figure?

Mr. Gordon: I will make a full statement on this matter at the beginning of the week, if I possibly can.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION OVER NATIONAL
 EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou): I wonder whether the Minister of Labour is now in a position to answer a question I put to his parliamentary secretary on Tuesday regarding the transfer of the national employment service from the unemployment insurance commission to the Department of Labour.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Yes. The transfer will be effected just as soon as a parliamentary decision is taken on an item in the supplementary estimates which will provide legal authority for such a transfer.

BRITISH COLUMBIA—EMPLOYMENT OF SOCIAL
 WELFARE RECIPIENTS ON WINTER WORKS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour regarding the winter works incentive program and the recent decision of the government of British Columbia. In the letter which has been sent to all municipalities in British Columbia, of which the minister has a copy, there is a sentence which says that "the provincial share of the winter works incentive program will be directed solely toward helping those people who have been unemployed and on social assistance for a period of three months or more."

Does this mean that no winter works programs will be approved unless the persons employed thereon have been three months or more on social aid, or does it mean that the provincial and federal governments will have a different sharing arrangement in the programs where there are other