

Inquiries of the Ministry

circumstances, in so far as I know them at present, would seem to warrant an investigation into the origin of the fire. I shall be glad to discuss this matter with the Prime Minister of Quebec.

FINANCE**PRIOR DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING APPLICATION OF U.S. MONETARY POLICY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): May I direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. At a press conference last week United States Commerce Secretary Connor said that before imposing the United States guide lines the reaction of the Canadian government had been sought at a high level. I should like to ask the Prime Minister if there have been any discussions with him or with any of his ministers regarding this question, and if so, which ministers were consulted.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance has already indicated that discussions between the two countries took place last autumn, not only in respect of the guide lines but on other aspects of financial policy as well.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Prime Minister if the United States Secretary of Commerce is correct in indicating that at that time there was no indication of any unfavourable reaction from the Canadian Government?

Mr. Pearson: I think the Minister of Finance who took part in these discussions, will deal with that question.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I gave a full account of the discussions that took place between the Canadian government and the United States government at both the ministerial-secretarial level and at the official level. We made it quite plain to the United States government that we did not think that the guide lines on direct investment were in the interests of either Canada or the United States.

[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS**ACCEPTANCE BY QUEBEC OF PROPOSED MANPOWER POLICY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

[Mr. Pearson.]

Can he tell us whether or not an agreement has been reached with the Quebec Minister of Labour with regard to Quebec's withdrawal from the joint manpower development program?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, no agreement has been reached as there has not been any negotiation; there have been no problems other than those found in newspapers.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary question to the minister. Can he tell us if the Quebec Minister of Labour has expressed the intention of withdrawing from that joint manpower development program?

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, I would have to know exactly what this joint manpower program really is, because I know of no plan or program by that name.

[English]

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, mine is a supplementary question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. If the province of Quebec does not participate in the manpower policies of the federal government, as members of the Quebec legislature have indicated, will it be the intention of the federal government to give financial aid to the province of Quebec in lieu of its participation?

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, we had a federal-provincial conference in January. At that time the province of Quebec agreed to participate in agreement No. 5 entered into under the vocational training act. They did accept, so I do not see the problem. I think the Minister of Labour was referring to the mobility program, which is strictly a federal act. That, of course, has been enacted very recently and I do not know what the actual attitude of Quebec will be.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NATO—REPORTED STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT DE GAULLE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the statement made yesterday by the President of France, General de Gaulle, outlining a policy involving the removal in the near future of NATO forces from French soil, I would ask the right hon. gentleman whether he has received any communication from President de Gaulle or