

Inquiries of the Ministry

Northern Affairs and National Resources, Department of National Health and Welfare, Department of Transport and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police?

2. Are there any distinctions in allowances made between locally hired persons and persons hired in other localities in each of the above agencies?

Return tabled.

RATIONS TO EMPLOYEES IN NORTHERN
AREAS

Question No. 1,958—**Mr. Orange:**

1. What arrangements are made to supply rations to employees of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Department of Transport, Department of National Health and Welfare, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Frobisher Bay, Cambridge Bay, Baker Lake, Inuvik and Fort Good Hope?

2. What salary deductions, if any, are made with respect to employees of these agencies in these localities?

Return tabled.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**RHODESIA—REPORTED FAILURE OF MR. SMITH
AND PRIME MINISTER WILSON TO
REACH AGREEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I do not know the extent to which the Prime Minister is in a position to advise the house and the country of the reaction to Prime Minister Smith's rejection of an agreement on Rhodesian independence. However, according to the press despatches, Mr. Smith accepted the proposed constitution and also agreed to the six basic principles which were referred to at the time of the Prime Ministers Conference. In addition to these six principles, the government of the United Kingdom now asks that power be given to the British appointed governor, Sir Humphrey Gibbs, over the police and armed forces, and that the governor also be given the power to appoint ministers.

In view of these last two addenda since the Prime Ministers Conference, and now that the matter is in the hands of the Prime Ministers Conference, will the Prime Minister give consideration to suggesting the removal of these addenda which are additional to the terms agreed to at the conference, which have been suggested since that time, and which, can only bring about serious consequences unless withdrawn?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we have had no official information which would confirm or deny the reports

[**Mr. Orange.**]

which my right hon. friend has mentioned to the effect that Mr. Smith has rejected the proposals made to him by Prime Minister Wilson, but we expect to hear any minute about that because Mr. Wilson will be making a statement in the British House of Commons in about an hour.

All I can say is that if these reports are accurate and the proposals are rejected, then I understand it is the policy of the United Kingdom to refer the matter to the United Nations, and conversations to that end have been going on with the government of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth governments. The particular reference which my right hon. friend has made regarding the power of the governor general over the police and the armed forces in certain contingencies does not, as I understand it, go beyond anything that was discussed at the last Prime Ministers Conference. But I would like to look into that, and also the relationship of that power to the six principles to which my right hon. friend referred. I prefer to say nothing further about that at this particular moment. Perhaps I can make a more detailed statement when we hear from the United Kingdom government as to what actually has happened.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Then does the Prime Minister say that at the Prime Ministers Conference, in addition to the six terms which were basic, there were conditions giving power to the governor general over the police and the armed forces, and the power to appoint ministers? These powers, to which I suggest the Prime Minister give consideration are not the kind of powers that are at issue in this matter, and are a contravention of constitutional government.

Mr. Pearson: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to get official information as to what actually was proposed by the United Kingdom prime minister, before I comment upon it.

OLD AGE SECURITY

QUEBEC—DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING EXCLUSIVE PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister regarding the statement in the speech from the throne in the Quebec legislature with respect to the wish of the government of that province that the federal government vacate the old age pension field, and give the province exclusive jurisdiction in that area. I want to ask the Prime