

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

of parliament with the members of the Centennial Commission concerning the programs and projects of that commission?

**Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, the date was suggested and even set for next Tuesday, at 9:30 a.m. in room 307 of the West Block.

[English]

**INDUSTRY****STEPS TO MEET REPORTED STEEL SHORTAGE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry. In view of the increasingly grave shortage of steel in Canada and the consequent serious increase in the number of lay-offs in secondary industry all across the country, what emergency measures are being taken by the Government to relieve this shortage of steel and thus prevent further lay-offs in secondary industry dependant on steel supplies?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry):** During the past 12 months there has been a substantial increase in the demand for steel in Canada. This has been consequent upon the upsurge in economic activity. This has been met in the interim by a significant increase in imports, mostly from the United States and Europe, as well as by bringing on stream a substantial amount of new Canadian production. I think the shortages and the time lag on deliveries which has been experienced over the last 12 months are likely on the way to being cured.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** If these shortages should continue and increase—I realize this question is slightly hypothetical—would the Minister give consideration to recommending to his colleagues that the import duties on steel from certain countries be temporarily withdrawn until the shortage is over?

**Mr. Drury:** While accepting this as a hypothetical question, I may say that it would not be apparent to me that a change, temporary or otherwise, in the tariff on steel would materially affect the supply.

[Translation]

**Mr. Marcel Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry. Could he tell the house whether the Quebec authorities, in order to achieve their SIDBEC project, have requested the good offices of the federal government, from the technologi-

[Mr. Blouin.]

cal, scientific as well as monetary stand-points?

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions about SIDBEC between officials of the federal Department of Industry and those of the provincial department. Moreover, the federal authorities are always ready to give as much help and advice as possible.

[English]

**BROADCASTING****INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF FOWLER COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State.

I have been asking him repeatedly now for the past three or four months what the C.B.C. intends to do concerning extension of its radio and television services in British Columbia to serve the French population of that province. But the Secretary of State has always replied that the Fowler Commission would be presenting its report.

Furthermore, that report was to be presented in May. This is mid-June and we do not have it yet. Could the Secretary of State tell us today when that famous Fowler Commission report will definitely be presented and, more particularly, when the French speaking citizens of British Columbia will receive the same treatment by the C.B.C. as their English fellow citizens of the province of Quebec?

**Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, because of very complex studies, the publication of the Fowler Commission report has been delayed, but Mr. Fowler assured me recently that the report would definitely be ready and published early in September.

My hon. friend can be assured that, as soon as the Fowler Commission recommendations are received, action will be taken as quickly as possible.

[English]

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** May I ask a supplementary question of the Secretary of State. In view of the fact that this time last year it was indicated the Fowler report would be ready early this year, and in view of the fact that it has been postponed on three or four occasions, will the Secretary of State not consider asking the Government to give consideration to making the grant suggested