

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister of Transport. Has the minister received a telegram from the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks local 650 expressing concern about the slow start of grain movement from the lakehead, and has he looked into this matter?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is yes. I did receive such a telegram this morning. I made some inquiries of the St. Lawrence seaway authority and, in the absence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, of the Department of Trade and Commerce. I am advised that at the moment the wheat board is in negotiation with the shipping companies about freight rates, and I prefer to express no opinion whatsoever about these negotiations. But while the loadings have not been as great as they were last year, I am informed that a vessel was loaded yesterday and others are expected to be loaded today.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**HAL BANKS—INQUIRY AS TO EXTRADITION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General but in his absence I shall direct it to the minister assuming his duties for the day. It has been reported by a cross country news service that senior officials of the R.C.M.P. have met with the attorney general's office in the province of Ontario to deal with the case of extradition for perjury against Hal Banks. Could the minister report on the results of this meeting?

Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I shall have to take this question as notice. I am not aware of the results of the meeting.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Justice now give the answer to the question I addressed to him a few days ago on the same topic?

Mr. Trudeau: I think at that time, Mr. Speaker, I said something about the administration of justice being in the area of jurisdiction of the province, and that if there were any special circumstances in this case I would have them looked into. I presume they are being looked into.

[Mr. Andras.]

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL**INQUIRY AS TO GRANTING OF TITLE
"RIGHT HONOURABLE"**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, two or three days ago the Prime Minister announced a system of Canadian honours. I now ask him whether there was cabinet authorization for the granting of the title of right honourable recently given to the distinguished Canadian which in the past has been exclusively restricted to members of the imperial privy council? Does this mean that from now on some Canadians may expect to receive the title of right honourable without becoming members of the imperial privy council?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the title of right honourable as applied to the Governor General was agreed to by Her Majesty the Queen and the table of titles amended accordingly on the recommendation of the government, specifically on my recommendation as Prime Minister. This recommendation concerns the Governor General only. It had the effect of giving the Governor General the title of right honourable and divorcing that particular title in respect of this particular appointment from membership in what my right hon. friend has called the imperial privy council. It has no other effect and covers nobody else.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Is it the intention of the government that no longer shall membership in the imperial privy council be granted to Canadians?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, membership in the imperial privy council, so-called, which is indeed the United Kingdom privy council, is normally as a result of recommendations made respecting Canadians and others by the United Kingdom government and accepted by the Queen. The initiation of these does not come from the Canadian government.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I realize that neither my right hon. friend nor I would have been members if it had not been the cabinet of the United Kingdom which made the recommendation to the Queen, but the Prime Minister apparently forgot the specific question that was asked. Is it the intention of the government of Canada no longer to have the right of Her Majesty the Queen to award to Canadians the title of right honourable, as members of the imperial privy council?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, this is a question that cannot be answered on orders of the day.