

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Minister of Justice (Mr. Trudeau), who has definite ideas on the Canadian constitution, to this interprovincial meeting in Toronto and whether the hon. Minister of Justice will then speak for all the cabinet members or for himself only?

[*English*]

**Mr. David MacDonald (Prince):** Mr. Speaker, could the Prime Minister inform the house whether the representation at this conference will be merely at the level of back-room experts or civil servants or whether it will consist of members of this house?

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is a repetition of one which was asked previously.

**Hon. Michael Starr (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in view of recent statements made in Quebec by members of the Prime Minister's own government and party concerning constitutional matters affecting Canada's future, will the right hon. gentleman take an early opportunity to make known the position of his government on this important subject for the benefit of the house and of Canadians generally?

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I have made a great many statements on this matter in recent months and years. I hope an opportunity will soon arise in this house when we can discuss this most important subject, a matter which we all consider to be a serious one. At that time I hope to be in a position to make the kind of statement which the hon. gentleman is suggesting.

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, in deliberating over this question will the Prime Minister and his government reconsider the proposal which has been made a number of times and accepted in general principle by the right hon. gentleman himself, namely, that the whole subject of the constitutional future of Canada be referred to a special committee of the house?

**Mr. Pearson:** I said in this house last spring that I believed it would be important to have this question considered by hon. members, possibly by means of a special committee, but that I thought such consideration would be more useful if it came after the federal government had made up its own mind with regard to its own policy on this most important matter so that it could submit that policy to a committee of the house and to the house itself. Since that time, as the hon. member knows, we

have been studying the question. We have set up a special branch in the Department of Justice for that purpose under a full-time senior official appointed for those duties. I hope this study will be completed before long. We will then be able to consider submitting the decision of the government to the kind of committee the hon. member has mentioned and obtain the views of others in this house on the question.

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal):** Mr. Speaker, when a discussion does take place in parliament can we be assured that the Minister of Justice will participate as a member of the cabinet and that his position will not be disavowed as it was by the Prime Minister and the rest of the Liberal caucus?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The question is out of order.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

I should like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister whether the final report of the Laurendeau-Dunton Commission is about to be published and tabled in this house.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I doubt that this is a supplementary question, but since it has been asked it will be allowed.

**Mr. Grégoire:** May I then ask the right hon. Prime Minister when the report of the Laurendeau-Dunton Commission is to be tabled in this house and whether he himself has already received this report?

[*English*]

**Mr. Pearson:** No, I have not received the report yet, Mr. Speaker, but I have been assured that the first, or is it the second volume of the report of the commission—the second and very important volume of the report should be available before the end of November, and I hope that date will be kept.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS****INQUIRY AS TO INCREASES IN PENSIONS AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the hon. and gallant Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of representations made by the Canadian Legion, other veterans organizations, the chairman of the standing committee on veterans affairs, other members of