

progress that has been made up to the present time, the numbers that have replied and the nature of their replies, because the House is entitled to that information? It should not be the private property of the Liberal party.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I do intend to make a report to the House after the polls have closed.

An hon. Member: It is two to one for the Liberals so far.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I would hope he could answer earlier than that, because it will not be long before he will be over there to give an answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are running short of time. Perhaps we should try to go to the next question.

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INDUSTRY

TANNING—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON REPRESENTATIONS OF TANNERS ASSOCIATION—REPORT OF ANTI-DUMPING TRIBUNAL

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and it is not about the auto pact. Has the minister received representations from the Tanner's Association of Canada on behalf of the Canadian tanning industry that recent developments in that industry are threatening the jobs of 2,500 men and women engaged directly in the industry and another 20,000 or so affected indirectly by the possible collapse of that industry? What steps, if any, is he taking in regard to these representations?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have received representations from that association, I think, and from a number of other associations and private corporations in respect of this serious matter. It is under very active study by my department at present. When I have any measures to announce, I will announce them.

Mr. Brewin: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps I should have given the minister notice. Has the anti-dumping tribunal reported to the government or to the minister on the submissions of the Tanner's Association to that body and, if so, is any action being taken on their report?

Mr. Gillespie: I wonder whether the hon. member is referring to the inquiry with respect to the footwear industry, or is he referring to some other inquiry? If he is referring to the former, which issued from an anti-dumping finding with respect to footwear, I am still awaiting the report on the inquiry.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Sherbrooke.

Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, the question I wanted to put has already been answered.

Oral Questions

[English]

VETERANS AFFAIRS

INQUIRY INTO HEALTH PROBLEMS OF FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR IN EUROPE

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Can the minister tell the House when and where the consultation with the European prisoners of war will commence, and would he be prepared to lay the terms of reference for the consultations on the table?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. gentleman's question may I say that the inquiry is now in progress. A gentleman by the name of Dr. Hermann has undertaken it for us, and I had a consultation with him a few days ago: I would like to convey to the House some of the things he said to me. He has undertaken a review of the possible delayed effects of imprisonment upon Canadians who were prisoners of war in Europe during world war II. For the purposes of the study, the former prisoners are divided into four groups: Dieppe, northwest Europe, central Mediterranean, and air force plus navy.

He has drawn for review 1,826 Dieppe prisoners files, has a list of 2,000 Dieppe veterans who were not imprisoned, and is now preparing mailing lists in order to contact these persons. Data will also be gathered on 1,000 fit male civilians of similar age as of 1940. This will mean that he will have information on all three groups for purposes of comparison.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hesitate very much to interrupt the minister, but I suspect he has almost reached the end of his statement. Normally, information of this nature should be given on motions.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think we might seek to obtain the unanimous consent of the House to return to motions in view of the fact that this is very important information which deals with an important segment of our society. I think we should return to motions and allow the minister to complete his interesting statement, since there is no other opportunity to speak about veterans here.

Mr. Speaker: As I indicated a moment ago, my suspicion was that the minister had just about reached the end of his statement. If he has not and if it is the wish of the House to hear the minister, he may complete his statement at this point without the necessity of returning to motions. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had just about completed my statement. I have only a few words more.

It is expected that in about six months time Dr. Hermann will be in a position to discuss the meaningful results of the study and whether additional work will still be necessary. He recognizes that time is of the essence.