

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister if he could inform the house whether he has already dispatched invitations to the provincial governments for the federal-provincial conference on biculturalism which he announced the other day?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. Lewis: In view of the reply given earlier by the Prime Minister, would the right hon. gentleman be good enough, with the consent of the house, to file a copy of the letter of invitation which he has dispatched to the provinces regarding the conference my earlier question dealt with?

Mr. Diefenbaker: I will do so. I have not the letter with me now.

(Translation):

CANADIAN CENTENNIAL

CHARLOTTETOWN—CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CONFEDERATION BUILDING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Vincent Drouin (Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister. Could he tell the house whether he has received a brief from Mr. Fernand Bibeau, of St. Eustache, in which the latter complains that the contract for the construction of the confederation building was not awarded to the lowest bidder?

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but he must realize that his question should be put on the order paper.

Mr. Drouin: Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a point of order. At the beginning of the session, you set forth the rules governing questions put on the orders of the day, and you said at that time that in order to be acceptable, questions should deal with matters of urgent public importance.

Now then, the question I wish to ask was raised in the newspapers recently, and especially in *Le Devoir* where it was said that tenders had been received.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member will recognize that the same kind of question could be asked about such and such a call for tenders in any part of the country. I feel he will understand that it is not essential to get that information at this stage of our proceedings and that he can readily put that important question on the order paper.

Mr. Drouin: Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit that my question has nothing to do with the tenders themselves.

[Mr. Lewis.]

Mr. Speaker: Order.

(Text):

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SONS OF FREEDOM, B.C.—INQUIRY AS TO REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a serious and non-partisan question to the Minister of Justice. Has the minister received any recent communications from the attorney general of British Columbia seeking this government's co-operation or assistance with respect to a settlement of the difficult Sons of Freedom question?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Justice): No sir.

(Translation):

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

EXTENSION OF BENEFITS TO WORKERS IN U.S.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Pierre-Andre Boutin (Dorchester): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour.

Could the minister tell us whether discussions between the Canadian government and the state of Maine concerning the problem of unemployment insurance for lumbermen have taken place, as he announced before Christmas?

(Text):

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Yes, sir. The state of Maine held a meeting of their own, and now they have set up a special committee to investigate the aspect of the problem particularly affecting the state of Maine. We hope that as a result of that meeting we may be able to get together with them and bring about a reciprocal agreement.

(Translation):

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

QUEBEC CITY—ESTABLISHMENT OF FRENCH TELEVISION STATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jean Charles Cantin (Quebec South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State.

Could the minister tell the house whether the government intends to comply in the near future with the B.B.G. recommendation for the establishment in Quebec city of a French television station by the C.B.C.?