

Inquiries of the Ministry

the name of Mr. Reamer for appointment to the unemployment insurance commission?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I have received no official communication from the Canadian Labour Congress yet on this point, although I have had informal communications with certain officers of the congress. Until I receive a formal communication I think I ought to withhold discussion of any particular name.

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it the present intention of the government to ultimately follow the recommendation of the Canadian Labour Congress in this regard?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the policy of the present government on appointments of this kind involving consultation with organized labour was set out by my colleagues the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs away back in 1959 in this house, and that policy will be followed in making such appointments.

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS**INTENTION TO MOVE CONCURRENCE IN COMMITTEE REPORT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the hon. member for Brant-Haldimand a question in his role as chairman of the standing committee on privileges and elections. Is it a fact that as chairman he intends to move concurrence in the report he tabled yesterday, as he indicated to the committee?

Mr. L. T. Pennell (Brant-Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, may I say to the hon. member for Port Arthur that I propose to keep the undertaking I gave to the committee, and in due course I will move concurrence in the said report.

INDIAN AFFAIRS**STATEMENT ON READINESS OF PROVINCES TO ATTEND CONFERENCE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. René Tremblay (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, last week after I explained why it was decided to convene the federal-provincial ministerial conference on Indian affairs later in the year rather than in May, as had been tentatively planned, the hon. member for Northwest Territories asked me whether invitations to

[Mr. Starr.]

participate in this conference were extended to the governments of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The answer is no. However, the question of their attendance is still under consideration.

Also in relation to the conference, the hon. member for Churchill asked whether some of the provinces did not indicate that they were prepared to go ahead with programs needing ratification by this conference, and stated that some very important projects would be delayed six months. At the time I said that I was not aware that a delay in the conference could have such consequences. I can reaffirm this. We have no knowledge of any provincial program of special interest to Indians which requires ratification by the conference and in consequence will be delayed by the convening of the conference in October.

LABOUR RELATIONS**MONTREAL—STEPS TO SETTLE WILDCAT STRIKE OF LONGSHOREMEN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. What does the minister intend to do to stop the longshoremen's strike in Montreal?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the hon. member would put this question on the order paper, as it probably requires a long answer.

[Translation]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The question is one of national urgency which affects the economy of Canada, and I would like to know what the minister intends to do to settle as soon as possible that strike which is prejudicial to the interests of the whole country.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Villeneuve—

Mr. Pigeon: The minister is ready to answer. This is an important question.

Mr. Speaker: Whether or not the minister is ready, I suggest that the question be put on the order paper. Perhaps at ten o'clock the hon. member—

Mr. Pigeon: I give the minister notice of my first question.