

Inquiries of the Ministry

secretariat the type of recommendation the Leader of the Opposition suggests. He mentioned something to the effect that they would be represented in some way at the federal-provincial conference. I said I approved of the method in which they wanted to proceed. If they had any such submissions to make, they should not be made to the federal government directly, but to the secretariat, which is at the disposition of the provincial governments as well as the federal government.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does this mean that the Prime Minister contemplates requesting that the terms of reference of the constitutional review be enlarged, as requested by the mayors yesterday? Is the Prime Minister going to consider and eventually define the most appropriate means for the inclusion of municipal representation on intergovernmental bodies which deal with policy of major municipal concern?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker. It means that in so far as the constitution now exists and in so far as arrangements for federal-provincial meetings now exist, it is up to the provinces to decide how their representation should be composed.

I suggest that if the provinces decide to bring as part of the provincial delegation representatives of the municipalities it would, of course, be their right to do so. As things now stand under the constitution and arrangements, Mr. Speaker, the federal government cannot by itself invite the municipalities.

Mr. Stanfield: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I understand, of course, the provinces can bring along municipal representatives to the constitutional conferences as observers or indeed active participants in their delegations. Is it not correct that the Council of Mayors and Municipalities proposes to submit to the secretariat of the constitutional conference specific proposals which would enable municipal governments in the future to participate actively in the deliberations of intergovernmental bodies which involve matters of municipal concern? Is this not what the Prime Minister has agreed to the association submitting to the secretariat?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, there was no discussion or agreement on the substance of their submissions. In a very general way, Mr. Lawless said he wanted to submit to the

[Mr. Trudeau.]

secretariat of the Federal-Provincial Conference certain proposals concerning their representation.

To repeat my first answer, I said that was the proper procedure, rather than making representations to the federal government. If they have representations to make along these lines, they should either be represented as part of the provincial delegation or, if they wanted to address themselves to the conference proper, they should do it through the federal-provincial secretariat, not through the federal government.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In order to strengthen the representations made by the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, would the Prime Minister undertake to consult with the provinces with a view to reaching some agreement as to the techniques by which the municipalities could be involved in having a voice in the various federal-provincial meetings, where decisions affecting them are being discussed?

Mr. Trudeau: I have no objection to this consultation, Mr. Speaker, apart from any that might be proposed by the provinces themselves. It seems to me the provinces would be on justifiable ground if they were to say to any such consultation, "Well, we will decide how you will be represented." That is why, to repeat what I said in my answer to the Leader of the Opposition, I prefer that the initiative come through the secretariat which serves both levels of government. If it were to come from the federal government it would more likely bring about resistance from the provinces, based on the question of constitutionality.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I ask the Prime Minister if he would be prepared to consider having placed on the agenda of the conference the advisability of setting up an urban affairs council on which all three levels of government would be represented, for the purpose of discussing the co-ordination of the three levels of government on matters affecting particularly large urban municipalities?

Mr. Trudeau: I am inclined to think that such an initiative would be premature on our part. The question of the division of powers between the federal government and the provinces under the constitution is a subject