

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**STATEMENT ON REPORTED PRINTING OF PENSION
CHEQUES IN U.S.

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre asked the following question:

Is the minister aware of the fact that on a pension cheque stub of the Canadian National Railways . . . there appears in very fine print the words "printed in U.S.A."? Is it necessary for a Canadian public utility to have its employees' pension cheques printed outside of Canada?

I said I would make inquiries, and have now been advised by the management of the Canadian National Railways that when the machine accounting system was installed the specialized punched cheque was not available and could not be produced in Canada. Arrangements have since been made to have these specialized forms printed in Canada, and when the stock on hand is exhausted the Canadian produced form will be used.

COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCEREQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON TRADE AND
ECONOMIC MEETING

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): I should like to ask the Minister of Finance if he can tell us now if all commonwealth countries have accepted the proposal for an economic and trade conference, and can he at the same time indicate to the house whether there is any reason to believe the conference may take place much earlier than expected, as I understand was suggested in a London paper this morning, perhaps some time toward the end of March?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, definite acceptances have been received from nine of the eleven commonwealth countries, and the other two have indicated that they are favourable, as were their ministers of finance at the time of the Mont Tremblant conference. A definite answer may be expected from them very soon.

As to the second part of the question, I am not aware of any report from London about expediting the plenary conference. What is being held in London early in February is the first of the meetings of officials in preparation for the plenary conference. According to present plans, preliminary meetings of the officials will be held in two stages, one early in February in London and the other probably in May. As to the date of the plenary conference, it has not yet been finally determined, the preference of some countries

[Mr. Speaker.]

varying depending on their local circumstances. One cannot be positive yet, but it looks as though the conference will be held in September or October.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Can my hon. friend say whether or not that would be before or after the next federal election?

Mr. Fleming: If my hon. friend will be good enough to tell me when that will be I shall be glad indeed to answer his question. I gather from some statements he has made that if certain events transpire according to his wishes next Thursday he will be coming out of his corner fighting.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): My hon. friend may be assured of that.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCEREQUEST FOR TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): I should like to ask the Prime Minister if it would now be possible for him to table the correspondence between the federal and provincial governments, to which reference was made on Tuesday? There are several of us who would like to have that correspondence available for the debate on Monday which was forecast by the Minister of Public Works yesterday.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): They will be tabled today, all of them.

Mr. Pickersgill: Would the Prime Minister ask to have the usual arrangement made to have them printed as an appendix to *Hansard*?

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is a matter for the house to decide.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the house should decide that when the documents are tabled. Is it the suggestion that a decision be made in advance? Is the house agreeable to this course being followed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[For text of documents referred to above, see appendix, pages 3227-30.]

TRADEOIL—ALLEGED DUMPING OF SUPPLIES FROM
VENEZUELA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday last I asked a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce