

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, April 7, 1965

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

PRIVILEGE

MR. BALCER—ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGE IN PARTY AFFILIATION

[Translation]

Hon. Léon Balcer (Three Rivers): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

I wish to inform the house of my decision to leave the ranks of the Conservative party.

The reasons I am taking that decision are well known to the members of this house and there would be no point in my repeating them here.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to sit as an Independent and I would respectfully ask you to assign me another seat.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member informed me of his decision this morning, and at his request I assigned to him a new seat.

BICULTURALISM AND BILINGUALISM

SURVEY OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT BY ROYAL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Is the Prime Minister now in a position to give an answer to the questions which were raised by the hon. Member for Marquette and the hon. Member for MacKenzie in connection with the investigation being carried on by the Royal Commission on Biculturalism and Bilingualism and the interrogation of Members of Parliament with regard to matters which by no stretch of the imagination come within the ambit of the authority given to the B and B commission?

• (2:40 p.m.)

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I have asked for a report on this matter, Mr. Speaker, which I have not yet received. But I will do my best to see that it is received in time to give a reply to my right hon. friend tomorrow.

INDUSTRY

BENEFITS OF CANADA-U.S. AUTOMOBILE AGREEMENT TO CANADIAN CONSUMERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Industry, but in his absence I wonder if I might direct it to the Prime Minister. Press reports indicate that Canadian-made Ford cars are now being sold in the United States at the same price as American cars. I wanted to ask the Prime Minister how soon we may expect that Canadian consumers will get the advantage of the U.S.-Canada automobile agreement, or is this consumer benefit to be confined entirely to American consumers?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industry has already answered the latter part of the question and I have nothing to add to what he has previously said. In so far as the first part of the question is concerned, I will look into that report at once.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY OF FRENCH IN FEDERAL STATUTES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Prime Minister if he could advise us when he intends to set up the special commission to undertake a complete investigation of methods for improving the quality of French used in federal government statutes, as shown by correspondence between him and the Premier of Quebec which was tabled in the Quebec Legislature.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the matter is under consideration, and I will endeavour to get the results of that consideration before the house as soon as possible.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN PROCEDURE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question