

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think it has been going on now—I am subject to correction here—for about a year in various committees under the supervision of the President of the Privy Council. Since he unfortunately took ill I have been supervising the study myself. I think it will take a good many months before we complete this work. I suggested the other day that it would be the autumn.

HOUSE OF COMMONS**RETURN OF PRESIDENT OF PRIVY COUNCIL
AFTER ILLNESS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, before I proceed with my question may I be permitted to say how delighted we all are to see the President of the Privy Council back in his place. We hope he is fully restored to health and strength and that he will be sufficiently well to be with us for a long time.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, at this point I wonder whether the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam will allow me on behalf of our party to also welcome back the President of the Privy Council. It is good to see him back, and we hope he enjoys good health.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Guy Favreau (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted on this occasion to say a few words without taking too much of the time of the house?

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. members who have just spoken for having been the interpreters of their own sentiments and those of their colleagues.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, during the rather frustrating period I have gone through and which kept me away from the house, I must say I was constantly sustained, and I want the house to know this, by the tokens of friendship, the encouragement and the sympathy which I received from all sides of the house.

It may have become a cliché to say that friendships transcending ideologies or political convictions are made in the House of Commons, but I think it should be repeated, at least in my case, because the manifestation

[Mr. Starr.]

of these friendships is one of the main reasons why I am back in the house perhaps several months before I expected it.

I wish to thank the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) for his constant support and encouragement.

May I, at this stage, add a personal word or two? It is that, during my absence, specially in the last few weeks, I have had to make a difficult decision, that is to leave the Quebec leadership. I must say, on the other hand—with the utmost sincerity—how happy and proud I was to observe the unanimous appointment of my successor. It is often a source of anxiety for someone forced to leave a post, to wonder over his successor. In the present case I must say that the personality, the sincerity and the talent of my successor will always give me a feeling of fulfilment. I wish him all success in the heavy task he will have to carry on. I also wish him—and I know he will receive it—the same support, the same backing and the same solidarity which I have received from all my colleagues.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[*English*]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**INQUIRY AS TO POLICE REPORTS ON BOMBING
OF YUGOSLAV BUILDINGS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I was about to ask the Prime Minister whether he has received any reports from police authorities regarding the persons or organizations responsible for the recent bombings of the Yugoslav embassies and consulates. I notice that the leader of one organization in the United States has said that they were out to make life miserable for Marshal Tito. What seems to have been overlooked is that it is also endangering the lives and properties of Canadian citizens. I wonder whether the Prime Minister has received any report on who are the persons responsible, and whether anyone has been apprehended as yet.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No report has yet been received from the police who are carrying on their investigation into this unhappy and senseless incident. The observation as to responsibility to which my hon. friend referred was made, I believe, by a United States citizen in San Francisco. I should add that the Secretary of State for