Inquiries of the Ministry

national parks, but in view of the fact that he is away on business perhaps I should direct it to the acting minister. Would the acting minister be so kind as to advise us whether there will be a winter works program at the Cape Breton Highlands national park? If so, how soon will it commence? My question is prompted by an urgent communication from a parish priest in that area who says that 50 families are now on welfare.

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, under the circumstances I will take this question as notice and either reply later or ask the minister to reply.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ACTION FOLLOWING REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ELECTION EXPENSES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Can he now tell us, after the cabinet discussions which he anticipated yesterday, what action the government proposes in regard to the report of the committee on election expenses?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that matter is under consideration by the government. We were discussing it this morning and I hope that by the beginning of next week a statement can be made as to what action might be taken.

Mr. Brewin: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the government consider embodying the recommendations in draft legislation and then submit it to the committee on privileges and elections in order that we can expedite this action before the next election?

Mr. Pearson: I will be glad to look into that particular suggestion.

[*Translation*]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

Has the Prime Minister received from the Quebec government an invitation to take part in the proceedings of a royal commission established by the Quebec government to consider the question of Quebec boundaries, and more especially the James Bay and

[Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria).]

Hudson Bay islands bordering on the province of Quebec, and also the national parks in Quebec?

[*English*]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I do not recall receiving any such communication, Mr. Speaker, but I will check into the matter at once.

INDUSTRY

EXCESS OF IMPORTS OVER EXPORTS UNDER AUTOMOBILE AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Industry. In view of the fact that at the close of the first year of operation of the Canada-U.S. car treaty the imports of cars, trucks and parts into Canada from the United States had exceeded our exports by the alarming figure of $726 million, will the minister advise the house what steps he proposes to take to stop this dangerous trend which is so adversely affecting our imbalance of trade?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I did not catch the figure mentioned by the hon. gentleman, but I think perhaps he is referring to the excess of imports in the calendar year 1965, which was something in the order of $770 million.

I have some figures here which indicate that in the first six or seven months of this year this imbalance was substantially reduced. Not only was the rate of imbalance reduced, but in the month of July the net import balance was only $15 million. I do not suggest that we can anticipate a deficit of only $90 million for the remainder of the year, but this does show a trend in the right direction which had particularly spectacular results in the month of July.

Mr. Hales: The minister said he did not hear the figure I mentioned. That figure was $726 million.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a supplementary question. Bearing in mind the circumstances, the dislocation of employment and the changes in the prices of automobiles, can the minister say whether the government is satisfied with the operation of this Canada-U.S. automotive treaty?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that his question is not in order.