

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, this is a matter which is under consideration and review by the government.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**EXTENT OF USE OF TRANSITIONAL ALLOWANCE BENEFIT INSURANCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the minister of manpower. In view of the great number of people who have been laid off or transferred in the motor car industry due to the Canada-United States car treaty, is the transitional allowance benefit insurance fulfilling its original purpose, and approximately how many workers are using it?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, those who are laid off on account of a drop in production which is related to the trade pact are allowed to receive the TAB benefits. I think the question as to how many receive them should be directed to the Minister of Labour, who is responsible for TAB.

ROYAL CANADIAN MINT**SUGGESTED PRODUCTION OF PROOF SETS OF COINS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In the light of the recent lay-offs of employees, notably pressmen, at the mint, with a view to increasing employment and increasing the numismatic interest in Canadian coins would the minister consider instituting the minting of proof sets, as distinct from proof-like sets, for this and for subsequent years?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that this is not a question of urgent national importance. Perhaps it could be placed on the order paper.

[*Translation*]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**DONATION OF CANADIAN BOOKS TO FRENCH LIBRARIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) and Acting Prime Minister.

[Mr. Grafftey.]

In view of the recent press reports that, a few days ago, in the course of a speech at a dinner in honour of the French Minister of Education, the minister is reported as having announced that the government is prepared to make available to six French libraries in various parts of France, a collection of some 800 works in English and in French. May I ask the minister when the government intends to proceed with this well-inspired gesture and what may be the approximate proportion of English and French works?

Mr. Speaker: This question should be put on the order paper.

TRANSPORT**PROVINCIAL REACTION TO LEGISLATION NOW BEING CONSIDERED WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. C-231**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill).

Can the minister inform the house if Bill No. C 231 now under consideration caused any reaction in the various Canadian provinces, particularly in the province of Quebec? Has the minister received from the provincial authorities objections with regard to Bill No. C-231?

[*English*]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): In the case of the provincial authorities of Quebec, up to now no representations have been brought to my attention.

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS**CONFERENCE OF PRIME MINISTERS—CANADIAN STAND ON RHODESIA**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs, in connection with the prime ministers' conference in the city of London, whether the stand of the Canadian government now is that the situation in Rhodesia is a dangerous and difficult one, and that it should be dealt with by the prime ministers' conference rather than being submitted to the United Nations.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the debate on Rhodesia at the prime ministers' conference began, as we all know, the day before yesterday. It is possible that the Prime Minister