

Inquiries of the Ministry

both yourself and the Prime Minister on the opportunity of discussing trade questions on the estimates of the Department of Trade and Commerce, may I ask how soon these estimates will be put before the committee of supply?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I am afraid I shall have to ask the hon. gentleman to direct his question to some other source of information than myself.

Mr. Fleming: I am afraid the Prime Minister is under a misapprehension. I was not directing the question toward him in particular. I was directing it to the government, and as the leader of the house is in his seat I shall relieve the Prime Minister of any responsibility for answering the question and direct it specifically to the leader of the house. How soon may we expect the estimates of the Department of Trade and Commerce to be put before the committee of supply for review?

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance): For the past two or three weeks the Minister of Trade and Commerce has been asking me the same question. I have not been able to answer him any more than I can answer my hon. friend.

Mr. Fleming: When will the minister be in a position to answer, because stress has been laid on the opportunity for discussion—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Fleming:—and the urgency of this matter. You referred to it, Mr. Speaker, and the Prime Minister referred to it.

Mr. Harris: The opportunity to call estimates usually arises after other business has been dealt with. It is hoped that other business can be disposed of soon and we can take the remaining estimates. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I think the house would take about a week on the remaining estimates, and during that time the Department of Trade and Commerce would be called. The sequence in which the departments will be called, however, will be a matter to be determined at that time. In the meantime I take it that the hon. gentleman and the party to which he belongs would like to dispose of the present debate.

Mr. Fleming: We would like to have the estimates of the Department of Trade and Commerce before the house in view of the urgency attached to them in the light of the discussion yesterday and today.

An hon. Member: You cannot have both.

Mr. Fleming: I think the minister shares the wish to bring them on, too.

Mr. Lennard: Mr. Speaker, have orders of the day been called? What about government notices of motions?

Mr. Speaker: They were called.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REFERENCE TO TAKING OF PICTURES
FROM GALLERY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether I should address this question to the Prime Minister or to Your Honour. I should like to ask who gives permission for people to take pictures from the gallery while the house is in session. I ask the question because I saw a man in the gallery this morning taking pictures. Is it only the national film board that is allowed to take pictures or can other individuals also take them?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I might answer the question. I have no general instructions with respect to these requests that come to me from time to time from various publicity organizations. But whenever a request is referred to me I always, with pleasure, take time to consult the four party leaders and, if they agree, a picture can be taken. I might add for the hon. member's information that I enforce a condition with respect to the taking of these photographs. The condition is that they be approved by the Speaker before publication. Whenever I receive copies of the proofs I will show them to the four party leaders, and if they agree with me then I will give consent.

PROTECTIVE STAFF—REQUEST FOR PERMISSION
TO DISPENSE WITH WEARING OF JACKETS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I should like to address a question to the proper minister, as I do not see the Minister of Public Works here. I understand that instructions require the members of the protective staff to wear their jackets under all circumstances. In view of the extremely hot weather we have had and the inhumanity of this regulation, would the appropriate minister give consideration to allowing them to remove their jackets during this period?

Mr. Speaker: May I perhaps supply an explanation to the hon. gentleman. During the last two or three years members of our protective staff were allowed to go without tunics during the summer months. But at their request the board of internal economy has granted them a summer tunic, and that