

THE MINISTRY

NATIONAL REVENUE—APPOINTMENT OF MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Lake St. John): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

In view of the fact that we are beginning to receive a great many complaints from our people about the 1963 income tax, could the Prime Minister tell us whether he intends to appoint a minister of national revenue soon so we could discuss those problems with him, because I do not believe the present minister will be there permanently? It would be a good thing if we could have discussions with the minister who will be appointed to that post.

[Text]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the present minister is of course competent to deal with these matters, and we hope before long there will be a permanent minister appointed.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

STUDY OF EFFECT ON CANADA OF SEPARATION OF QUEBEC

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister of which I sent him notice. In view of the action of the Quebec legislature in setting up a committee to study the social, cultural and economic effects of separation upon the province of Quebec, and in view of the urgent need for the widest possible dissemination of information on this subject and in particular its effect on the rest of Canada, would the government consider ordering a study of the economic, cultural and social effects upon the rest of Canada of separation by Quebec, so the fullest measure of information would be available to discuss this important subject?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Well, Mr. Speaker, the government would be glad to give consideration to the hon. gentleman's proposal, but I would like to add that we are convinced any such study would be entirely academic, because no such separation is going to take place.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Scott: I am sure the sentiments of the Prime Minister are shared by every member in the house, but is he aware that there are people in Canada who really think Canada can

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get along separately, and that it might be useful if this type of information were available?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I am very much aware of that, and I repeat we shall give consideration to the hon. gentleman's proposal.

[Translation]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

In the name of national unity, had the Prime Minister given instructions to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Hellyer) to denounce Mr. René Lévesque because the latter is in favour, for Quebec, of the status of associated state?

Some hon. Members: Ten o'clock.

[Text]

Mr. Pigeon: Yes or no? Mr. Speaker, I want to discuss this matter after ten o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member asked a question but I did not hear any answer. In view of the fact that there is no answer there can be no disagreement or dispute, and I do not see how the hon. member could discuss this at ten o'clock.

Mr. Pigeon: It is a proper question.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I should like to raise a question of privilege. I directed a question to the right hon. Prime Minister and I got no answer. Under the standing orders I think I am authorized to raise that question after ten o'clock, at the first opportunity.

Some hon. Members: Tonight.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: I want to assure the hon. member I will take it into consideration and give a decision just as soon as possible.

AGRICULTURE

EGGS—DROP IN PRICE IN WESTERN CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture, but in his absence maybe some other minister will take it as notice. Could the minister explain to the house the drastic drop of 17 cents per dozen in the price of grade A eggs in the western provinces? What steps, if any, has the government in mind to stop this unheard-of