

Inquiries of the Ministry

papers Nos. 97 and 103 are acceptable to the government.

I ask that the remaining notices of motions be allowed to stand.

[English]

ONTARIO LAWYERS SENTENCED TO PENITENTIARY

Motion No. 97—**Mr. Herridge:**

That an order of the house do issue for a copy of all correspondence between any organization or persons in the province of Ontario and the federal Minister of Justice, the Solicitor General or the Secretary of State for External Affairs, with respect to all members of the legal profession, resident in the province of Ontario, who have been convicted of fraudulent practices and sentenced to penitentiary from January 1, 1963 to January 1, 1966.

Motion agreed to.

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QUE.—VIEILLES FORGES RECONSTRUCTION

Motion No. 103—**Mr. Mongrain:**

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this house a copy of all correspondence exchanged between the Board of Trade of Trois-Rivières, or its Vieilles Forges blast furnaces reconstruction committee, the Quebec Minister of Cultural Affairs, and the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, or any other department, with regard to the reconstruction project of Vieilles Forges (Mauricie) within the boundaries of the city of Trois-Rivières.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FAO

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to call the attention of the house to the fact that sitting in the Speakers' gallery is a distinguished international public servant, Mr. B. R. Sen, the director general of FAO. I am sure we all welcome him to this chamber.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RHODESIA—REPORTED STATEMENTS BY COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs arising out of reports of a press interview given by Secretary General

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Arnold Smith of the commonwealth committee to the effect that Rhodesia's action in breaking away from Britain is comparable to Japanese action in Manchuria in 1931 and Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia, and furthermore that a continuation of the Rhodesian situation would probably cause an even more hostile attitude by China toward the west than exists today. Has the attention of the government been drawn to these extraordinary statements, and does the government of Canada agree therewith?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I shall have to take a look at the full text of the statement attributed to the secretary general of the commonwealth. I am sure I will find that the full context warrants reading.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I could not be more in agreement, that it warrants reading; but an answer from the government regarding this statement is also warranted.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, so there will be no misunderstanding, when I said it would warrant reading I had in mind that anything Mr. Smith might say would deserve very serious study, because we all regard him as one who has distinguished himself in the performance of his responsibilities as a foreign service diplomat and, by virtue of the office he now holds in the commonwealth, we would want to attach to what he says the consideration which his utterances deserve.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

CONCLUSION OF DEBATE ON MOTION FOR ABOLITION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the statement contained in the Speech from the Throne to the effect that "arrangements will be made for a decision on the issue of capital punishment at an early date," can the Prime Minister assure the house that necessary arrangements will be made so that a decision can be reached by the house on the motion which has been introduced for the abolition of capital punishment?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, steps will be taken during