

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, March 20, 1959

The house met at 11 a.m.

PRIVILEGE

MR. MCMILLAN—REFERENCE TO REMARK
IN DEBATE BY MINISTER OF FINANCE

Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. In committee on Wednesday I claimed that bonds were advertised in units of up to \$1 million, and the Minister of Finance said, "How ridiculous can you become?" I have here a pamphlet from the Bank of Canada, authorized by the Minister of Finance, indicating that these bonds were available in units of up to \$1 million.

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member, in referring to this matter of the issuance of bonds in denominations of \$1 million as well as smaller denominations, used this to base a statement that the government was interested in obtaining borrowings from big interests. The fact is that the denominations in which the last bonds were issued are precisely the denominations which have prevailed in government issues for some years. It suits the convenience of some purchasers of bonds—insurance companies, banks and others—to take them in these larger denominations; but the denominations are precisely those which have prevailed for some years. There are smaller denominations as well as the larger ones, and we are glad to have the opportunity of doing business with everybody who wishes to buy Dominion of Canada bonds on the terms on which they are offered. There is no justification whatever for the statement made by the hon. member that this was an attempt to tailor this issue to larger interests.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether he will be in a position soon to announce the appointment of a commissioner of the R.C.M.P., and whether he can give the house an assurance that the appointment will be made from within the force?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think that question should be appropriately asked of the Minister of Justice.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I have had indications of concern about this matter from other hon. members, particularly the hon. member for Athabasca. In reply I should say that no consideration whatsoever has been given, or is being given, to the appointment of someone from outside the force as commissioner; no consideration whatsoever. We expect in the immediate future to be making a recommendation for the appointment of a commissioner from within the R.C.M. police, and as soon as the recommendation has been dealt with an appropriate announcement will be made.

Mr. Pearson: The reason I asked the question of the Prime Minister was that the commissioner, as I understood it, has the status of a deputy minister; that therefore the appointment was to be made by order in council on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I can understand that, but this matter comes particularly under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Justice, and I know the Leader of the Opposition will be very pleased at the answer which represents the viewpoint of the government.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VISIT OF U.K. STATESMEN—INQUIRY AS TO
FURTHER CONSULTATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): I wonder if the Prime Minister could tell the house whether, following the important visit of Prime Minister Macmillan and Mr. Lloyd to the United States, arrangements have been made with the Canadian government for further consultations on the ministerial level, or what steps will be taken for further consultation on these very important questions?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, at the moment I have nothing to report in that connection. I outlined last evening something of the general situation. Of course this is a matter which is constantly before us, and we intend to exert every influence to the end that tensions may be relieved or diminished.