

Inquiries of the Ministry

apprehended on April 28, 1964 and detained under the authority of the Immigration Act pending the holding of an immigration inquiry to determine his right to remain in Canada.

Concurrently with this action prosecution proceedings were instituted by the police authorities. He was charged with illegal entry into Canada and appeared in court on May 4, his case being remanded. The court granted his release on bail of \$1,000. Notwithstanding the court's acceptance of bail, Vergakis continued to be detained for the immigration inquiry which was opened on May 6. The inquiry was immediately adjourned at the request of Vergakis' counsel, and he was released. Because of different adjournments, occasioned in part by Vergakis' refusal to answer questions, the inquiry was not completed until June 14, at which time he was ordered deported. He has entered an appeal against this order.

In the light of the deportation order and the fact that Vergakis is a deserting seaman, the special inquiry officer decided that he should be detained. The next day, an application for release having been made to the special inquiry officer by Vergakis' counsel, the detention order was withdrawn. He is free pending the outcome of his appeal and trial. The trial is scheduled to take place on June 26.

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): A supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of the continuing series of reports and statements in connection with the Immigration Act and the alleged denial of the rights of individuals, would the Prime Minister not consider having a committee of parliament examine the Immigration Act with a view to clearing the air in a lot of these matters?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, before considering that matter, I think it would be well to await the conclusion of the discussion which will undoubtedly be taking place on this matter on interim supply.

HOUSING

REPORTED INCREASE IN COST INDEX

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance but in his absence perhaps I might ask it of the Prime Minister. My question arises from a dominion bureau of statistics cost of living release of June

12 indicating that the housing index rose one half point in May over April of this year and has risen 2.3 points over one year ago. Would the Prime Minister advise the house whether this increase is considered to be caused by the increase in the sales tax on building materials? If so, what action is the government taking to counteract it?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will put this question on the order paper—it does entail a good deal of research—he will get a reply from the Minister of Finance.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF AMENDING LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Veterans Affairs I wish to direct a question of some substance to his parliamentary secretary. Does the parliamentary secretary know whether the minister intends to introduce any amendments to the Pension Act, the War Veterans' Allowance Act or any other legislation affecting veterans and their dependants during this session?

Mr. C. W. Carter (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for giving notice of his question. I shall have to take it as notice and bring the matter to the attention of the minister on his return.

PUBLIC SERVICE

INQUIRY AS TO FILLING OF VACANCY ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Labour. Has the government yet decided whether, and if so when, the vacancy created on the unemployment insurance commission will be filled?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, no decision as yet has been taken on this appointment, but I would hope that such decision will be made within the next short while.

[Later:]

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Has the Canadian Labour Congress submitted