

Labour Conditions

conference and of the rules of procedure recommended for consideration will be forwarded to the Canadian Embassy in Paris.

Will you accept, Mr. Prime Minister, the assurance of my high consideration.

(signed) J. de Hauteclouque.

The Right Honourable Mackenzie King,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Secretary of State for External Affairs,
Ottawa.

I have not had the opportunity since the receipt of this invitation to bring its representations to the attention of my colleagues. Therefore I do not feel in a position at the moment to give the house further information than that the invitation has been received. I hope to-morrow to be able to make a statement as to the government's decision with respect to the delegation.

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

INQUIRY AS TO FINAL REPORT OF COMMISSION
OF INQUIRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice when the last report of the espionage commission will be filed. I noticed that ten days ago it had been sent to the printers. When will it be laid on the table?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Minister of Justice): I am afraid the hon. member is a little bit misinformed as to the date on which it was sent to the printer. Parts of the report have been in the hands of the printer since much more than ten days ago, but the last portion of it was sent to the printer, I understand, only last Friday or Saturday morning. It is now in the hands of the printer and also in the hands of the translators, and it is hoped that it will be ready for tabling at a very early day. The printers and translators have been advised that it was hoped they would lose no time in making it available for tabling.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

APPOINTMENT OF CONTROLLERS FOR STEEL
INDUSTRY

In the course of the budget debate:

Hon. Humphrey Mitchell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, hon. members should be informed immediately, I believe, that the government to-day has appointed a controller and three deputy controllers for Algoma Steel Corporation Limited; Steel Company of Canada Limited; and Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation Limited. I table herewith copy of the order in council.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

The government has taken this action to assure, as far as it is humanly possible to do so, that work will continue in these important plants.

All three plants are producing coke on a large scale which is being routed by the fuel controller for heating and cooking purposes, and any interruption in the production of coke will impair the already short supply of fuel in sight for Canada's needs.

Furthermore, the continued production of steel is basic in the economy of the nation and any stoppage of the work in these three plants would affect the entire economic fabric of the country.

I am sure hon. members will have followed the various reports, including statements by officials of the steel workers' union, that a strike date would be set on July 12 in the steel industry. You will recall that on the recommendation of the Minister of Labour for the province of Ontario I appointed the Hon. Mr. Justice W. D. Roach, as an industrial disputes inquiry commissioner, and he has been endeavouring to mediate the dispute and bring the parties into agreement and while his efforts have resulted in bringing them closer to an understanding they have not as yet been entirely successful and rather than wait until a stoppage of work occurred, it has been deemed advisable to take the action I am now reporting.

Not only the workers of the three companies concerned and their families would have been affected by a stoppage of work in these plants but also hundreds of thousands of workers in industrial employment directly and indirectly related to steel would have faced the prospect of unemployment within a short time and production in many lines would have been slowed down and stopped.

Mr. F. B. Kilbourn of Montreal, formerly steel controller, has been appointed as controller of the three companies. Mr. B. G. Sullivan of Toronto, Mr. J. Argyle of Ottawa, and Mr. H. R. Pettigrove of Halifax, have been appointed deputy controllers.

Mr. Justice Roach has consented to continue to mediate the dispute between the interested parties. The companies and the union will continue their negotiations with a view to the settlement of the matters at present in dispute between them.

It will be recalled that the national and regional war labour boards have recently been given an extension of powers in connection with wage rates and are now authorized to fix wages on a just and reasonable basis consistent with the all important matter of retaining price control.