

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence):** As announced, I think in both Ottawa and Washington, I am going down on Sunday afternoon to spend the next day with Mr. Gates, the United States secretary of defence and some of the other defence officials, as a matter of getting acquainted with those gentlemen and having some general discussion with regard to defence matters.

**BRIDGES****INTERPROVINCIAL BRIDGE, OTTAWA—INQUIRY AS TO PROGRESS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. T. Richard (Ottawa East):** I should like to ask the Minister of Public Works whether at this time he has anything further to report on the progress of the interprovincial bridge across the Ottawa river.

**Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works):** My hon. friend will be happy to know, as I am sure will all members of the house, that plans are getting along just as fast as possible and, as a matter of fact, much faster than could possibly have been anticipated.

**COAL****CAPE BRETON—REPORTED INTENTION TO CLOSE MINES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. Is it the intention of the government to take any action to prevent the loss of more than 2,000 jobs in Cape Breton which will result from anticipated mine closures?

**Hon. Paul Comtois (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys):** I will have a statement prepared early next week on this matter.

**Mr. Robichaud:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister also make a statement—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member has risen on another question, because there could be no supplementary question on the answer given. A supplementary question should be for the purpose of clarifying the answer.

**INQUIRY AS TO ACTION ON REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a second question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. [Mr. Hellyer.]

Is the minister in a position to make a statement on the attitude of the government toward the recommendations of the royal commission and can he tell the house whether it is the intention of the government to take action on this report at this session of parliament?

**Hon. Paul Comtois (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys):** Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of government policy. As soon as a full study of the matter has been made I will report to the house and make a statement on it.

**THE CENSUS****INCLUSION OF QUESTION RESPECTING RACIAL ORIGIN**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Lionel Chevier (Laurier):** May I direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce and ask him whether, in view of the representations made by many groups in the province of Quebec, the minister can assure the house that a question will be included in the census to be taken next June as to the racial origin of Canadians, as has always been done up to now?

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** I am so glad to see that the continuity of past sessions is continuing in the very friendly relationship between the hon. member for Laurier and myself. My new portfolio has not altered that at all. I thought he, or some other member from the opposite side, might be asking this question, so I have an answer here for him. I just happen to have brought my music with me.

**Mr. Pearson:** You brought over your same executive assistant.

**Mr. Hees:** I asked the chief statistician of the dominion bureau of statistics about this matter and he has written me a letter, which I have here. With the permission of the house, I would like to read what he has said on this important matter:

Dear Mr. Hees:

Further to our discussions of this morning, I am submitting a report on the proposed procedure for asking the "Origin" question of all persons during the 1961 census of Canada.

Prior to the 1951 census of Canada, the government of that day instructed the dominion bureau of statistics to accept "Canadian" and "U.S.A." in reply to question 17, "Origin". Because there was no marking position for either of these entries, the enumerators were instructed to write the answers in the space provided.

The instructions to the enumerators for completion of the question on "Origin" used in the 1951 census of Canada were as follows:

Then he outlines them very carefully, and I will not take up the time of the house by