

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, April 10, 1959

The house met at 11 a.m.

TRADE

URANIUM—PROPOSED VISIT BY MINISTER TO UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce whether he contemplates a visit to Washington in the near future to discuss with the United States government the taking up of the options with respect to uranium which are of such great importance to Canada and to our relations with the United States both economically and politically.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Yes, there is no question about the importance of that contract to our uranium industry and to our economy, and during the last two months I have endeavoured to make arrangements to meet with the appropriate people in Washington concerning this matter. There was some delay, due to the illness of some of the people concerned in the United States, but I expect to have a chance to confer with the authorities in Washington very soon.

IMMIGRATION

REQUEST FOR REVOCATION OF RECENT AMENDMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): In the absence from the house of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister and ask him whether, in view of the fact that the recent amendments to the immigration regulations obviously serve no public purpose and are causing great hardship to many families, he will urge his colleague to admit her mistake and recommend that the order be revoked.

Hon. Howard C. Green (Acting Prime Minister): That is not a question; that is a political speech.

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FINANCE

STEEL—TARIFF INCREASE ON IMPORTS FROM WEST GERMANY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Have any persons representing the steel industry in Canada asked the government to increase the tariff on steel entering Canada as a protection against imports from West Germany?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Not within the last ten months.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENTS TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask the Minister of Labour whether in view of the statement made in the white paper presented by the Minister of Finance two days ago with regard to the position of the unemployment insurance fund he would not agree that it is desirable that amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act should be placed before the house at the earliest possible moment, so that we may be in a position to appreciate the relation of the state of the fund to the financial situation of the country as presented by the Minister of Finance in his happy manner but gloomy results last night.

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have felt that it is desirable to bring these amendments before the house much sooner than the hon. member probably proposes in his question. I have urged that this be expedited as much as possible, and everything is being done toward that end.

REFERENCE OF CANADA ELECTIONS ACT TO STANDING COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works in his capacity as house leader and ask him when we might expect the carrying out of one of the provisions in the throne speech, namely the referral of the elections act to the standing committee on privileges and elections.