

Inquiries of the Ministry

and with respect to the various matters which will come before this conference, the Department of National Revenue must necessarily participate to a considerable extent, and in the circumstances the representation on the part of the federal government at the ministerial level will include both the Minister of Finance and the Minister of National Revenue.

ROYAL VISIT**INSTRUCTIONS TO MOUNTED POLICE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, prompted by a number of persons who are quite concerned I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Has the minister's attention been drawn to an item in the *Montreal Star* of June 26 which quotes an R.C.M.P. officer as saying:

We couldn't push them around as if they were a street mob, as a lot of them were very influential people.

The officer made that remark when replying to a question with respect to certain disturbances at a recent public function. In view of the disturbing implications of such a statement, would the minister assure the house that the R.C.M.P. have instructions to enforce the law on all occasions, regardless of the pomposity, prestige or pocketbooks of the persons concerned?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, my attention was drawn to a reported remark attributed to a member of the R.C.M. Police to the effect that the hon. gentleman has outlined in his question. I have not been able to ascertain that such remark ever was made by a member of the R.C.M. Police, and I would be very surprised indeed if it was, because I think the record of the way in which the police have handled their responsibilities in connection with the royal tour, under circumstances which are not always easy, indicates quite clearly that special efforts are being made to do their job with due regard for their responsibilities under the law to Her Majesty and to the public who may be interested in seeing the Queen on the occasion of her tour.

REQUESTED DELAY IN DEPARTURE FROM HALIFAX

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. J. McCleave (Halifax): I have a question for the minister in charge of the royal tour arrangements. Could consideration be given to delaying the departure of the royal couple from Halifax harbour on the *Britannia* so that instead of departing late Saturday night they could receive a royal

send-off on Sunday morning by several hundred boats, hundreds of church bells and tens of thousands of people—in short, so that we in that area could de-Joyce properly?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): The program of the royal tour has been firm for some time. I will be glad to look into the suggestion made by the hon. member and see if that could be done, though I am afraid it could not, because as I say the arrangements were worked out with the Queen some time ago. But I will look into the matter.

AGRICULTURE**CROP INSURANCE AND FARM CREDIT—REQUEST FOR DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture, arising out of a very strong press release issued by the Saskatchewan minister of agriculture, Hon. I. C. Nollet, in which he says it is imperative that a federal-provincial conference, including representatives of farm organizations, should be convened immediately before final approval is given to the legislation covering crop insurance and agricultural credit. Is the Minister of Agriculture prepared to call such a conference so the views of the provinces and the farm organizations may be obtained before this legislation is finally dealt with?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen this press release to which the hon. member has referred. I have seen a press release which quotes the minister of agriculture of Manitoba as saying that he is very well satisfied indeed with this legislation. As far as calling a conference is concerned, the result, as the hon. member knows, would be that this legislation would not be implemented at this session of parliament. I think it is essential that the crop insurance plan and the improved credit plan which are covered by the two bills should be implemented and put into effect as soon as possible.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Speaker, since the present crop season is well under way, could the minister explain how a delay of a few weeks, or even some months, could affect the implementation of the crop insurance scheme?

As a further question I would ask whether in view of the minister's answer he is prepared to have this legislation go before the agriculture committee in order that witnesses from the provinces and farm