

Inquiries of the Ministry

responsibility for the advice given by the under secretary of state to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration as disclosed in the directive tabled yesterday by that minister?

Mr. Lamontagne: Mr. Speaker, I was informed by the deputy registrar general that he had given a personal opinion.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, I wish we could get to the root of this matter. May I ask the Secretary of State whether he disclaims all authority for this statement which appears in the document tabled yesterday by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration:

I have now received advice from the under-secretary of state which allows direction for a uniform procedure as follows:

(a) The coat of arms of Canada should be located on the curtain backdrop behind the judge's dais in the court room.

(b) The Queen's picture should be displayed in the judge's chambers in order that applicants may see it when being interviewed at the hearing.

I ask the Secretary of State whether that is not the advice tendered by his under secretary, and does he not accept responsibility for the same?

Mr. Lamontagne: Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to what I have already said.

[Translation]

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Lake St. John): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

In view of the point raised by the right hon. Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the Conservative party in this house, could the Secretary of State provide for additional copies of the Queen's portrait, in order to give them some, since it seems to be their wish?

[Text]

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question on this subject, and I direct it to the Prime Minister. Now that the government has adopted the practice of giving special assignments to hon. members on the opposition side of the house, and in view of the particular interest in the matter of protocol displayed by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, will the Prime Minister consider assigning to that hon. member a special responsibility in the field of protocol?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): As it happens, Mr. Speaker, very close study

and consideration has been given to this matter by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and myself.

FINANCE**RENEWAL OF U.K.-CANADA TAX AGREEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. According to reports the current Anglo-Canadian tax agreement will lapse on December 31, 1964. Will the minister say what efforts he is making to renew this valuable agreement, or inform the house what course the government intends to follow?

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, meetings of officials of the United Kingdom and Canada were held in Ottawa starting on September 28 to discuss a revised agreement. At these meetings a draft for a revised agreement was prepared, and in accordance with usual practice this draft was then placed before the two governments for their consideration. As I mentioned yesterday, I think it was, there has been an election in the United Kingdom in the interim which has no doubt slowed up this matter to some extent.

I should like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to say it is incorrect to suggest that double taxation will suddenly exist or that business firms will be hurt if the new agreement is not ready to be put into operation on January 1, 1965. Both Canada and the United Kingdom have measures in their income tax legislation to prevent double taxation by allowing credits for taxes imposed by other countries, and these provisions will continue in operation even if there is no income tax agreement between the two countries in question.

Mr. Winkler: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister say whether it is his intention to press for the renewal of the agreement?

Mr. Gordon: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

INQUIRY AS TO TARIFF CHANGES RESPECTING TOBACCO IMPORTS

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Does his department intend to increase the tariff on cigar tobaccos which are produced in Canada?