

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

THE VATICAN—INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT
OF AMBASSADOR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. May I ask the hon. gentleman whether an appointment to the Vatican, having ambassadorial status or the equivalent, is imminent.

Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend will realize that this question was answered by the Prime Minister a few weeks ago. There has been no change.

[Translation]

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

REQUEST FOR REPORT OF INTERDEPART-
MENTAL COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who is Acting Prime Minister today.

My question refers to the statements made the day before yesterday by the Quebec premier when he expressed the wish that the committee instructed to consider reforms to our Canadian constitution be set up again.

Would the minister ask the federal officials who will study the constitutional reforms to expedite their work as much as possible, so that we may set up our own parliamentary committee to look into the constitution?

Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that this matter is constantly being looked into by the federal government and that there is no delay so far as we are concerned.

[English]

OIL

POSSIBLE INCREASE IN EXPORTS TO
UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of his statement yesterday regarding the possibility of increased oil exports to the United States, has the minister anything he can pass on to the house as to the immediate prospects of increased shipments of oil to that market?

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Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): No, Mr. Speaker. I can only say that negotiations are proceeding with the United States on this subject.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

REPORTED STATEMENT BY B.C. PREMIER
RESPECTING FEDERAL AID TO HYDRO
PROJECTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the honourable and most patient Minister of Finance based on a statement made by the premier of British Columbia in the British Columbia legislature on February 21, to the following effect:

That the federal government is withholding no strings attached financial aid from hydro projects in British Columbia in an effort to obtain part ownership of British Columbia's water and power resources.

My question is whether in view of the constitutional implications involved, this statement is a correct reflection of federal government policy.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should like to reply to the young, amiable and handsome member who has just asked the question that the statement made by the premier of British Columbia is, so far as I know, without foundation. I would categorize it as both absurd and without foundation.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

MCKINNON INDUSTRIES—TAB PAYMENTS FOR
WORKERS LAID OFF

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, on Monday and Tuesday of this week the right hon. Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam asked a series of questions in connection with the lay-off of some 900-odd workers at McKinnon Industries Limited in St. Catharines. Among the questions asked by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam were whether the union concerned had been able to secure the names of those certified by the adjustment assistance board and whether the board would be arranging a meeting with the union.

The facts are that the union applied to the board some time ago for certification of certain workers laid off at McKinnon Industries.