

Now, if Mr. Ramsey remains in Canada we shall attempt to ascertain whether he is here merely as a visitor or has other interests. We would then ask him certain questions.

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Can the minister tell us whether it is normal for an immigrant to come to Canada first and then request immigrant status or whether he should not, under the regulations, request immigrant status while still in his own country?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question is out of order. The hon. member is asking for an interpretation of the departmental regulations or of the act. This type of question cannot be answered.

[English]

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

CHANGES IN AMENDMENT FORMULA SUGGESTED BY QUEBEC GOVERNMENT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday of this week I asked the Prime Minister if he had yet made inquiry of the province of Quebec whether that government would indicate the changes they felt should be made before reconvening a constitutional amendment conference. The right hon. gentleman assured me that he had made inquiries but he wanted to be precise in his recollection—which I understand—before answering.

Could I ask the right hon. Prime Minister whether he has received an answer to those inquiries, and if so what the answer is?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to my hon. friend's request, made first I think on March 4, I should first tell him that I received a reply from the Premier of Quebec on this matter of constitutional amendment procedure dated February 17. With the leave of the house I should be glad to table that particular communication with the Premier of Quebec.

In further reply to the question I would say that since the date of this letter views have been exchanged informally with the government of Quebec, and the federal and provincial governments are reviewing recent

Inquiries of the Ministry

developments in this field of constitutional amendment in order to be in a position to resume consideration of the question at a future meeting of the federal-provincial conference of the Prime Minister and premiers.

I have been informed that the government of Quebec is not yet ready to indicate any definitive position in this matter of procedure regarding constitutional amendment. While I regret that I cannot be more specific on this aspect of the matter at this stage, I want to assure the house that it remains an immediate objective of the policy of the federal government to provide that the constitution of Canada may be amended in Canada.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary question, in view of his reply may I ask the Prime Minister whether he is able to throw any light on the statement made by the premier of Quebec yesterday when, in response to a question asked in that legislature, he said:

[Translation]

Mr. Jean Lesage replied that there was no correspondence other than that which he had tabled on the question.

Mr. Johnson: Should we draw the conclusion that Mr. Pearson was referring to the last letter?

Mr. Lesage: I have no conclusion to draw, I have seen nothing, I am aware of nothing, I am saying nothing.

[English]

Can the Prime Minister comment upon that statement which appears quite extraordinary in the light of the reply he has just made?

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker. I shall have to look into that statement, which I had not heard until my hon. friend brought it to my attention.

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker, I desire to lay on the table of the house the correspondence to which I referred in answering a previous question.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, if the Prime Minister is agreeable, may I request approval of the house that this correspondence be printed as an appendix to *Hansard*?

Mr. Pearson: I would be quite agreeable.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Editor's note: For text of letter referred to above, see appendix.]