Inquiries of the Ministry ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ONTARIO—INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL JUDGES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Can the Minister of Justice inform the house whether or not a reported statement made by the attorney general of Ontario is correct that eight new judicial appointments will be made in the province of Ontario? If that statement is correct, can the minister indicate whether they are all to be county court appointments or whether some of them will be appointments to the supreme court of Ontario?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): It is my recollection that at its last session the Ontario legislature passed legislation authorizing the appointment of two additional judges to the trial division of the supreme court of Ontario, and six additional county court judges.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): May I ask the minister if it is the intention of the federal government to comply with that legislation, and if so will necessary legislation be introduced this session?

Mr. Fulton: It is hoped that it will be possible to deal with that at this session, yes.

BRITISH COLUMBIA—STATEMENT ON REPORTED ARREST OF MAN ON TICKET OF LEAVE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): I should like to reply to a question asked by the hon, member for Vancouver East on June 10. He asked whether my attention had been drawn to a news report that a person convicted as an habitual criminal, and released on ticket of leave, was arrested by the R.C.M.P. under instructions from the remission service, without any charge being laid or opportunity given to that person to learn of the charge or to present a defence.

The hon. member then asked:

Will the minister advise the house if the law of Canada or the administration of the justice department permits a person to be found guilty and reimprisoned without knowledge of the charge or an opportunity to present a defence?

In answer I would say that the Ticket of Leave Act authorizes the governor general, on the advice of the appropriate minister of the crown, to grant to any person under sentence of imprisonment a licence to be at large in Canada during such portion of his term of imprisonment and upon such conditions in all respects as to the governor general may seem fit. The governor general is authorized also from time to time to revoke any licence so granted.

Where an inmate is released on licence under the Ticket of Leave Act he is expected to comply with the conditions of his licence and to live a law-abiding life. The authority to revoke a licence is exercised where the remission service has reason to believe that a licensee is not complying with the conditions of his licence or is not leading a law-abiding life. This is essential for the protection of the public.

Where a licence is revoked no new charge is laid against the licensee, nor is he sentenced to any new term of imprisonment. The warrant that is issued for his apprehension requires him to be brought before a magistrate and requires the magistrate to commit him to the institution from which he was released on licence, there to continue to serve the balance of the sentence that he was serving when he was released on licence.

TRANSPORT

STATEMENT ON ALLEGED USE OF FOREIGN PILOTS WITHOUT CLEARING CUSTOMS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Revenue if he has an answer to the question I addressed to him the other day concerning the practice of customs officials with regard to the pilots of foreign ships on the great lakes.

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue): I have not an answer prepared in that regard, but in general the practice of the department, in furtherance of the legislation made in that behalf, has permitted pilots, as well as shipping masters operating on the great lakes, to leave their ships from time to time, regardless of the hour of the day or night at which the ship might be calling at the port.

The reason for this is obvious. Very often the ships do call at a time when customs officers are not available and this permission, this right if you like to call it that, has been accorded to pilotage officers for many many years. It is a right to which is attached very substantial penalties if any violation of the law occurs. The honour system is applied, to some extent, with respect to pilots, but if the honour system should be violated in any way there are substantial pecuniary penalties imposed on the pilots and they also forfeit their licences.

From time to time this may cause some difficulties, in circumstances such as those mentioned by the hon. member, when there is some conflict between groups in this particular area. Certainly if the law is to be applied, it has to be applied to all pilots. I would not think it would be a very happy

[Mr. Green.]