

consideration to asking them to sit in right from the start.

Mr. MacEachen: This was a delegation from the mining industry coming forward to express its views on the manpower question. It was a meeting sought by the industry and treated as an industry meeting.

Mr. Orlikow: The reports are not of a meeting, but that joint working committees have been set up between the mining association and the government departments, an entirely different matter and one in which I think the unions should be involved.

URANIUM

PROGRESS OF DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING SALE TO FRANCE

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Could he tell us what he plans to do about the sale of uranium to France?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister answered that question last week.

[Text]

HEALTH AND WELFARE

ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT—INQUIRY AS TO CONFERENCE WITH PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Can he say whether a date has been set for the meeting between the federal government and the provinces relating to health care, which was forecast in the throne speech of yesterday?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): All I can say at the moment, Mr. Speaker, is that it will be after Easter. We are negotiating a date which will be suitable to all concerned.

Mr. Knowles: May I ask a supplementary question. Will the Prime Minister make known to the house, perhaps by tabling the correspondence, the agenda or terms of reference for that meeting?

Mr. Pearson: I see no reason why that should not be done if the provinces are agreeable.

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

• (3:10 p.m.)

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

TORONTO—LEASE OF UNUSED SPUR LINE FOR PARKING PURPOSES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ralph Cowan (York-Humber): I have a question I should like to address to the Minister of Transport. Would it be possible for the parking authority of the township of York to lease any of the right of way of the spur line of the Canadian National Railways lying north of the Canada Packers plant in Toronto, which spur line is no longer in use?

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member put this on the order paper?

Mr. Cowan: Ten o'clock.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed, from Monday, April 5, consideration of the motion of Mr. Cashin for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my first words must be of congratulations to the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Cashin) for the manner in which he discharged his responsibility in moving the address in reply, and to tell him that one of the things which particularly interest those of us who have long served in the House of Commons is to see young men and women coming along in the service, and the parliament of their country.

During the years I have been here I have heard many addresses, but I betray no confidence when I say that those delivered by the hon. member and the seconder were of high quality and revealed a manner of approach to the House of Commons and a delivery that did honour to them, to this chamber and to each and every one of us.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: As one who has tried to learn to express himself in French may I say to the hon. member for St. Maurice-Lafleche (Mr. Chrétien) that it is certainly most impressive when a young man is able to express himself so clearly, so cogently and so effectively as he did in both languages. Of course, Mr. Speaker, you would not expect me to add that I agreed with the arguments they advanced or with the extent of the