

Inquiries of the Ministry

principle or doctrine with respect to boundary waters between Canada and the United States, and rivers with their headwaters in Canada but flowing into the United States?

Some hon. Members: Order paper.

Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I accept this question as notice.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**BRITISH COLUMBIA—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO HALT VIOLENCE IN INTERIOR**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stuart Fleming (Okanagan-Revelstoke): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact that there have been three more bombings in the Okanagan valley by persons unknown during the past 48 hours, and in view of the fact that the lines of the Canadian National Railways have been attacked for the first time, could the minister state whether he is prepared to intervene in this matter and, by the implementation of more intensive police activity, seek to find an effective means of protecting the lives and property of Canadian citizens from further jeopardy?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of this question. I am aware of the incidents to which he refers, and I wish to assure those whom he represents and this house that we are continuing to investigate these incidents with every resource at our disposal.

With regard to the specific terms of the question, I must point out that we could intervene with specific action only on the request of the provincial authorities, and that no such request, in that sense, has been received.

As the hon. gentleman knows, the whole matter of the Doukhobor problem has been under discussion recently between ourselves and the government of British Columbia, and it continues to be the subject of negotiation between the two governments. I might say that in regard to these discussions—and I do not think I am in breach of any agreement regarding the confidential nature of such discussions—satisfaction was expressed by the provincial authorities with respect to the efforts being made by the police with the resources at their disposal. There was no criticism of the police methods or activities or the interest or readiness of the police to co-operate with the provincial authorities and use every method at their disposal to investigate and identify the perpetrators of these outrages.

I should also say that the authorities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police here are

maintaining constant communication with the officer commanding E division—that is, the contract division in British Columbia—with a view to ascertaining from him whether any further support or assistance is desired and, if so, to be in a position to furnish that assistance whenever it might appear that further actual strength is necessary.

I should point out further that while we are not as yet able to report any results of the investigation of these most recent bombings, which took place only within the last 48 hours, five arrests have been made as a result of the series of bombings which took place elsewhere in the Okanagan area within the last two weeks. Those cases have not yet come up for trial.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. gentleman and the house, as I have assured the government of British Columbia, that we remain ready at all times to consider sympathetically any specific requests which might be made for specific assistance in dealing with this problem.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): May I ask a supplementary question. Would the minister inform the house if there have been any further developments with respect to the correspondence between the Canadian government and the government of British Columbia which he mentioned some days ago?

Mr. Fulton: I have not checked on that matter today, Mr. Speaker, but as of yesterday I was informed that no further correspondence had been received. The hon. member will recall that the premier of British Columbia had said that we would be hearing from him in due course as to the specific proposal under discussion between the two governments, and nothing further had come in as of yesterday.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**NON-OPERATING RAILWAY UNIONS—INQUIRY AS TO CONCILIATION BOARD REPORT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): I have a question which I should like to direct to the Minister of Labour. I note that his office announced yesterday receipt of the report of the conciliation board in the dispute between the non-operating employees of the railways and the Canadian National, the Canadian Pacific and other railways. I am wondering whether the minister has any comment to make on the majority report, and whether he has any information to give to the house as to whether it will be accepted by the parties.