

of national significance and is causing national curiosity. Has the minister met with the premier of British Columbia with respect to the Columbia river or the national grid, and has he anything to report to the house at this stage?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to inform the house that I had a meeting with Premier Bennett over the week end in order to discuss the Columbia river development. We had a two hour meeting. I think it was a very good meeting. It was a very friendly meeting.

Mr. Benidickson: That is a change.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I am not one of the federal ministers attending the dominion-provincial conference to discuss a national power grid in Canada. Premier Bennett is attending that meeting. I had the pleasure of meeting with all the delegates to that conference at noon today and had the pleasure of sitting beside Premier Bennett at luncheon. We hope to have a further discussion on this subject before Premier Bennett leaves this evening for Victoria.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): I should like to ask a supplementary question. From this are we to conclude that the Minister of Finance takes the view now that the premier of British Columbia has not bypassed the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Justice, and that he does not prefer his pen pal the Prime Minister?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): If it comes to the matter of drawing conclusions, Mr. Speaker, I would think it is obvious that the conclusion to be drawn is that the hon. member for Essex East is just about as hopelessly wrong as usual.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH PROVINCES RESPECTING NATIONAL GRID

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twilligate): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether there is any correspondence with the provincial governments regarding the electric grid conference which started today which has not been tabled, and if there is could the Prime Minister make it available to hon. members tomorrow?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): I cannot give the hon. gentleman an answer off the cuff, but I will have the matter looked into and if there are any such letters they will be made available tomorrow.

Inquiries of the Ministry

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SONS OF FREEDOM—REQUEST FOR TRAINING OF TROOPS IN KOOTENAY DISTRICT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Has he received any further representations from the attorney general of British Columbia with respect to the transfer of troops for a particular purpose?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker.

FINANCE

POLICY RESPECTING CANADIAN BORROWING IN U.S.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. First, on the basis of many press reports, including last week's lead article in the *Financial Post*, would the minister inform the house whether the governor of the Bank of Canada visited Toronto about ten days ago and with some design asked a number of prominent financial persons to meet him? Second, does the minister still deny, as he did when I asked him a question on March 12, that there has been any meaningful change in policy respecting the desirability of Canadian borrowings in the United States of America, since his sermons on this subject in budget speech advice on June 20, 1961 and in December of 1960?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, assuming that you regard this lengthy question as one that is proper on the orders of the day, let me begin by taking up the remark of the hon. member about sermons. I was not aware that I had been preaching any sermons on this subject but believe me, Mr. Speaker, if the time ever comes when I take to preaching sermons there is nobody who could better absorb them than the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River.

The answer I gave the hon. member on the occasion to which he has referred is quite correct. There has been no change in policy. After Mr. Rasminsky had taken over his duties last summer as governor of the bank he met with representatives of a number of leading investment houses in Canada and proposed to them that for the time being it would be desirable that they should not undertake financing in the United States market, with the opportunities that existed in Canada for that purpose. It was expected that this would