

Therefore the allegation that these were Canadian rifles, Bren guns and Sten guns stolen from Camp Gagetown is completely incorrect.

Mr. Pugh: Would the minister explain the significance of the pulhems S-5 rating?

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker, I do not think I had better go into the whole list of pulhems tests. It is a stability rating.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

THREATENED RAIL STRIKE—INQUIRY AS TO FURTHER TALKS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): May I ask the Prime Minister whether he will comment on press reports that certain interviews have been held by members of the government with the presidents of the railway companies and the chief negotiator for the railway unions. Can the right hon. gentleman further tell the house whether a settlement seems imminent, and what further action is being taken by the government to bring this about?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): The government is naturally interested, as are the Canadian people, in a solution to the differences between the railway companies and the unions, and naturally has endeavoured to bring about negotiations and continuation of negotiations between the principals. Several of my colleagues—three to be exact—have met with the presidents of the two railways. The Minister of Labour has met with Mr. Hall, chairman of the negotiating committee of the unions, and I think I can say that we shall continue to have meetings between the government and each of these parties to the end that we hope—while I am not expressing any certainty in that hope—an amicable agreement may be arrived at.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT—COMMUTATION OF DEATH SENTENCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gabriel Roberge (Megantic): I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General. Will the minister comment on the fact that 38 out of 48 death sentences have now been commuted by the present government, while in only 14 cases has there been a recommendation of mercy?

Hon. W. J. Browne (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, this matter involves the exercise

Inquiries of the Ministry

of the royal prerogative of mercy and is carried out by the Governor General as the representative of Her Majesty the Queen. I do not think I should make any further comment on this matter.

(Translation):

NATIONAL DEFENCE

ST. JEAN MILITARY COLLEGE—DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Associate Minister of National Defence. Would he advise the house about the appointment of a new dean of studies at the St. Jean Royal Military College?

Would the minister also avail himself of this opportunity to reply to the recommendations contained in a brief already submitted to him by the federation of St. Jean Baptiste societies, with regard to certain problems concerning the same college?

Hon. Pierre Sevigny (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the question of the hon. member for Sherbrooke, I am pleased to inform the house that the new dean of studies at the St. Jean Royal Military College has been selected. It is Dr. Gauthier, aged 40, who was successful in the competition held by the civil service commission and the selection committee. Dr. Gauthier was selected on the basis of his qualifications and ability.

With regard to the second part of the question, I feel that the time available to members and ministers on the orders of the day would not suffice to reply to all the points raised in the brief submitted by the federation of St. Jean Baptiste societies of the province of Quebec. However, it is my intention, at a later date, or probably when the national defence estimates are before the house, to give a full report on each of the points submitted concerning the problems relating to the St. Jean Royal Military College. As for now, may I inform the house that the Department of National Defence authorities intend to maintain the bilingual character of St. Jean Royal Military College. Moreover, they intend to maintain as accurately as possible the proportion of French-speaking and English-speaking students to 60 per cent and 40 per cent respectively.