

*Inquiries of the Ministry***DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**PROVINCIAL PARTICIPATION IN FISCAL AND
MONETARY POLICIES

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Maurice Côté (Chicoutimi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State.

Could the minister inform the house as to whether the government proposed to establish jointly with the provinces permanent offices to deal with taxation, currency and trade?

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

[Text]

CANADIAN CONSTITUTIONAPPROVAL BY QUEBEC LEGISLATURE
OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister. Could the right hon. gentleman tell us whether he has received word from Quebec as to when the government of that province may be able to give its approval to the proposed amendment to the Canadian constitution, having to do with survivors' benefits?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): The legislature is debating that matter this afternoon. I hope the debate will be a short one, and that we can get ahead with our resolution here.

IMMIGRATIONJOSIF VERGAKIS—REQUEST FOR REASON
FOR DETENTION

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to direct a question to the minister of immigration. It has to do with a man by the name of Josif Vergakis, a 20 year old seaman who was apprehended on April 27, having been taken into custody at the request of the hon. gentleman's department. Bail was granted to him in the sum of \$1,000. He put up the money, yet he is still in custody. Is it because he refuses to answer questions which are placed before him, or for what reason is he being held in this country?

[Translation]

Hon. René Tremblay (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am

[Mr. Speaker.]

not aware of that particular case, but I will be pleased to make the necessary inquiries and provide the information.

[Text]

FLOODSBRITISH COLUMBIA—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT
ON SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): In the absence of the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources I wonder if I could direct a question either to the Postmaster General, as the other cabinet minister from British Columbia, or to the acting minister of northern affairs with respect to the flood situation in British Columbia. News reports indicate that the floods have abated somewhat, but perhaps one of the members of the cabinet could give the house a reasonably up to date indication of the situation.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Postmaster General): I am sure that the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources is in a position to deal with that.

Mr. John N. Turner (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): The minister is in British Columbia at the moment looking into the gravity of the situation on the Fraser and Skeena rivers. I might say that at his request I was in Dawson City and Mayo last Thursday and Friday to look at the situation on the Yukon and Stewart rivers. I am glad to report with regard to these particular waters that the levels seem to have dropped. At Mayo the flood waters are one and a half feet below the five feet above normal which they once were, and at Dawson City, for the first time, the waters have begun to recede and were six inches lower than the previous mark of ten feet above normal.

Mr. Howard: May I ask the parliamentary secretary whether the minister has any plans now to make an offer of assistance, to work with the provincial government in this situation?

Mr. Turner: I am sure that once the minister has had an opportunity to view the situation he will be in a better position to answer that question himself on his return.