

Inquiries of the Ministry

Standing order 5 reads as follows:

Every member is bound to attend the service of the house, unless leave of absence has been given him by the house.

Having been absent for one year, the member for Yukon has shown the same irresponsibility—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member must know that under the standing orders, he must resume his seat when asked to do so by the Chair.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: I greatly doubt that the point of order now raised by the hon. member is in order. I think that the matter which he stated should rather be submitted to the house, if he wishes to do so, by way of a question of privilege.

At any rate, this is my opinion which I am expressing without having thoroughly considered the suggestion. If the hon. member wishes to leave that matter in abeyance, I could eventually give my opinion thereon.

Mr. Choquette: Now, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit that I will rise to-morrow I think on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[*English*]

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): I rise on a question of privilege. When you are considering that very important point, Mr. Speaker, would you also take into consideration the matter of whether a member of this house who has sworn allegiance to the Queen should introduce a measure advocating the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of a republic.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**MEDICARE—REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF LEGISLATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the minister say whether the government, since approval of the medicare bill, has received representations from any province concerning a review or reconsideration of any of the provisions of this legislation?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I do know [Mr. Choquette.]

that following the premiers' conference this summer there was a request to the Prime Minister to convene a conference on the subject of medicare. I will be happy to advise my hon. friend later what the present situation is in respect of that request.

Mr. Chatterton: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, addressed to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister say whether the request of the provinces will be acceded to, and if so when such a conference might be called.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will have to look into the matter and discuss it with the minister.

TRANSPORT**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CAUSEWAY—REAPPRAISAL OF DESIGN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. Can he advise whether the energies and abilities of Colonel Edward Churchill are now being directed to the Northumberland causeway project? If so, has his department been able to make more rapid progress in the current reappraisal of the design?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): The answer to the first part of the question is yes. The answer to the second part is that we are making very rapid progress in re-examining the design.

VETERANS AFFAIRS**INQUIRY AS TO INCREASES IN PENSIONS AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a very simple and brief question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Has the minister anything further to report in respect of government policy relating to an increase in disability pensions and war veterans allowances?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Not at this moment, Mr. Speaker.

SUPPLY

The house resumed, from Monday, October 2, consideration of the motion of Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and