

*Inquiries of the Ministry***DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS****ANNEXATION BY BRITISH COLUMBIA OF YUKON  
AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster):** I have a question I should like to direct to either the Prime Minister or the minister of northern affairs. I wonder if they are aware of a statement made, I believe yesterday, by Premier Bennett of British Columbia to the effect that British Columbia is now ready to annex the Yukon and Northwest Territories up to the 120th meridian, thus making British Columbia Canada's largest province; and in return he offers the residents of the annexed areas \$300 million in road and railway links. If they are aware of this offer by the premier of British Columbia, do they think those concerned should accept?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I do not have the statement of the premier of British Columbia. He did not take me into his confidence before making this statement. However, I understand that the convention was treated to high drama at the time. I think there are 23 delegates present, of whom eight came from Alaska.

This is not a new suggestion by any means. My hon. friend may remember that the late great Duff Pattullo of British Columbia once made this suggestion in respect of the Yukon. Premier Bennett appears to be more generous in his territorial ambitions. I do not know the reaction of the people of the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

He is dealing, of course, substantially with the provision of transportation and communication in that area. We are very aware of that, as is indicated by our interest in highways. I should like also to pay tribute to the Canadian National Railways people who for some time have been making a very thorough study of the transportation requirements to develop the resources of that general area as they become available.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS****IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF  
STANDING COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Is it the intention of the minister to place before the house

[Mr. Laing.]

in the near future any legislation implementing the recommendations of the standing committee on veterans affairs, as adopted by this house last session?

**Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** There will certainly be legislation coming forward, we hope before the end of this session. I will have a report later.

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****HAL BANKS—FAILURE TO APPEAR IN COURT**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Justice.

Has the minister consulted his cabinet colleagues or officials of his department concerning the proceedings which should be taken following Mr. Hal Banks' failure to appear in court yesterday, the date on which his bail expired?

Does the minister or his department intend to take steps besides what has already been done to explain to the Canadian people Mr. Banks' refusal to abide by Canadian law and to ensure the respect of the law in Canada?

**Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I answered yesterday that, as far as the proceedings to be brought before the court of appeal were concerned, counsel for the department had been instructed to ask that, should Mr. Hal Banks not appear in court today after a 24-hour postponement, his appeal be dismissed or rejected. I also said that we had instructed our counsel that, in such a case, they were to start proceedings immediately to have the bond forfeited. Those were their instructions.

I tried to get a report on what was going on in court this morning, but counsel are still held up there. Tomorrow noon, however, I shall be in a position to report, not on whether or not Mr. Banks did appear, but in regard to the proceedings then in progress.

**Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Could the Minister of Justice tell us whether he asked experts of his department to examine the report of the Norris commission to determine whether it would not be possible to lay new charges against Hal Banks which would make him liable to extradition and would compel him to serve his sentence.