

*Inquiries of the Ministry***HEALTH INSURANCE****INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION THIS SESSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the minister received a copy of a resolution from the Retired Citizens' Association of his own city of Windsor respectfully urging the Hon. Paul Martin to speak out in parliament in favour of a national health insurance plan? If so, does the minister intend to implement this resolution at an early date?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the citizens of Windsor would be the first to tell the hon. gentleman that there is no one who speaks out more clearly than I on this particular matter.

Mr. Knowles: That is not the way the resolution reads.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**IGOR GOUZENKO—RELEASE OF TESTIMONY BEFORE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ambrose Holowach (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are called may I ask a question of the parliamentary assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the minister's absence, notice of which I gave last Friday together with a clipping, headed "U.S. Shows No Desire to Free Igor Evidence", which was taken from the *Toronto Globe and Mail* dated February 9. My question is this. Owing to the considerable publicity which has been given as to the release of the Gouzenko evidence, will the parliamentary assistant make a statement to the house with respect to all of the testimony given the United States subcommittee by Igor Gouzenko several weeks ago?

Mr. Roch Pinard (Parliamentary Assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my hon. friend for having informed me of the nature of his question.

As hon. members will recall from previous statements made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson), the Canadian government, following a request from the United States government, informed that government that it was prepared to make arrangements for a meeting at which Mr. Gouzenko could be interviewed by representatives of the United States government. This offer was subsequently accepted. In accordance with these arrangements a meeting was

held on January 4, 1954, at which representatives of the United States government interviewed Mr. Gouzenko. The United States government was represented by the United States ambassador to Canada, Senator William E. Jenner, Senator Pat McCarran and Mr. J. G. Sourwine. I should like to emphasize that Mr. Gouzenko was interviewed by representatives of the United States government and not by a committee of the United States Senate.

After the meeting the Canadian authorities examined the transcript of the proceedings in order to determine whether there was any reference either in the questions or in the answers, publication of which in this context might jeopardize Canadian security investigations or might prejudice unfairly the reputation of individuals or organizations in Canada or might be open to question on grounds of international propriety, as relating primarily to the interests of a friendly third country. With the exception of a few words in the transcript—in fact, there were about two or three sentences comprising about 30 or 35 words—which fell within one or other of these categories, the Canadian government saw no objection from its point of view to making the transcript public if the United States government so wished. The Canadian government did not, however, consider that it would be appropriate to make the transcript public unless the United States government requested that this action be taken, since the inquiry related directly to names of persons in the United States or to the internal security of the United States.

The Canadian government therefore informed the United States government in the latter part of January that it was prepared to make public the transcript with or without any further deletions, if the United States government wished this done. Up to the present time no further word has been received from the United States government on this question.

THE CONSTITUTION**INQUIRY AS TO RECONVENING OF DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in reply to a question asked of me by the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton), I said that the government was not considering reconvening at an early date the federal-provincial conference on constitutional amendment which last met, not in September, 1950, as the hon. member for Kamloops stated, but in December of 1950.