

*Inquiries of the Ministry***DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**CONFERENCE TO ESTABLISH ECONOMIC
PRIORITIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Prime Minister in his capacity of reporting to parliament on federal-provincial affairs. In view of the statement of the Minister of Forestry to the economic association of Montreal on Tuesday last, in which he said that the ten provincial governments, together with the federal government, must now establish goals and economic priorities, is it the intention of the government to press for a conference with the provinces as soon as possible in order to establish economic priorities and priorities in the field of social action?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have already dealt with this matter in the reply which I made to the communication from the premier of Manitoba. I would add that in the conference which is to take place in a few weeks we will be discussing the establishment of a tax structure committee, and that will have a bearing on priorities.

Mr. Graffey: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. How does the right hon. Prime Minister reconcile that with the concrete suggestion of the Minister of Forestry that it is immediately imperative that economic priorities be established with the provinces as soon as possible?

Mr. Pearson: I will be very glad to read the speech of my hon. friend, Mr. Speaker. It has not been brought to my attention up to the present time.

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Justice.

Can he tell us whether his colleague for Drummond-Arthabaska (Mr. Pepin) finally convinced Hon. René Lévesque, of the Quebec government, of the merits of co-operative federalism?

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that in a few days the hon. member for Drummond-Arthabaska will have won over every right-minded citizen to the cause of co-operative federalism.

[Mr. Pearson.]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Is the Minister of Justice suggesting that if the Quebec minister of natural resources is not convinced, he becomes, by the same token, a citizen who is not right-minded?

Mr. Favreau: It is not up to me to explain statements in public.

[Text]

ANNEXATION BY BRITISH COLUMBIA OF YUKON
AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Have there been any communications whatever between a member of the government of British Columbia and any member of the government of Canada, or any officials of any department or branches of those respective governments, with respect to Premier Bennett's proposal for the annexation of the Yukon and part of the Northwest Territories?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I doubt it very much, but because I esteem my hon. friend so highly I shall make the inquiries he seeks.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): May I ask a supplementary question. When the minister inquires, I wonder if he would convey to Premier Bennett the suggestion that was made by the then sitting Liberal member, Mr. Simmons, that the Yukon extend her southern boundary to the 54th degree of latitude in the province of British Columbia.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

CERTAIN GROUPS NOT INCLUDED IN PAY INCREASES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the President of the Privy Council. In view of the fact that the pay increases for members of the staff of the House of Commons announced last week were said to be related to pay increases in the civil service, can the President of the Privy Council tell us why certain sections of the staff, notably the protective staff, the messengers and the tradesmen have not yet had any increases?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The reason is that the groups to which the hon. member has referred would be related to what is known as group D, under the cyclical pay