

been unjustly dealt with, I wish to point out that these boards of referees are composed of employers and employed; in the majority of cases the employees are representatives of trades unions, and it is somewhat like the policy adopted in Great Britain under similar circumstances, where there is a compulsory transfer of labour.

ONTARIO ELECTION

DELIVERY AND DISTRIBUTION OF VOTING PROXIES FOR ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Prime Minister what arrangements have been entered into between the government of Ontario and this government with respect to the delivery and distribution of voting proxies for the armed forces overseas in connection with the contemplated provincial election in Ontario. I would ask the Prime Minister to inform the house on these points. First, have the proxies been sent overseas and, if so, when were they sent and through what department of this government? Second, how and by whom will the proxies be distributed to the armed forces overseas? Third, have any arrangements been made by this government for any officials of the dominion government or the Ontario government to proceed overseas in connection with the work of such distribution, and, if so, what officials are being sent by either the federal government or the government of Ontario? I understand that in the normal course of events the government of Ontario must work in cooperation with this government in connection with the work involved.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I am not in position myself to give my hon. friend an answer, but I think my colleague, the Minister of National Defence for Air, can give at least some of the information requested.

Hon. C. G. POWER (Minister of National Defence for Air): I am not in position to answer all the questions that have been asked.

Mr. GRAYDON: Do your best.

Mr. POWER: All I can say is that Major Lewis, who is the chief election officer in the province of Ontario and therefore in charge of matters concerning elections, called upon me, and I think some of the officers of the defence forces. Without asking us specifically to take any particular action, he inquired if we would cooperate to the fullest extent possible. We told him that we would. Speaking on behalf

of the three ministers, I do not think there will be any difficulty about cooperating with the Ontario government.

Mr. GRAYDON: Perhaps the minister's knowledge does not go this far, but does he know whether the proxies have yet been sent?

Mr. POWER: We did not discuss details. All that was said was that we would be willing to help out and do whatever they asked us to do, having regard to the exigencies of the operation.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

PROCEDURE IN CALLING OF MEETINGS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. C. GREEN (Vancouver South): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. On February 22 he moved for the setting up of a select committee of the house to consider and review the defence of Canada regulations and also the law relating to naturalization and deportation, I believe the committee met subsequently to choose a chairman, but no meetings have been held since the appointment of the chairman. The subjects to be considered by this committee are of great importance, and I should like to know if there is not some way by which the government can see to it that the work of this committee is commenced now so that something may be accomplished before the house adjourns.

Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Minister of Justice): I do not know that there is any way in which the government can direct the proceedings of a select committee of the House of Commons. As the hon. gentleman has stated, this committee was set up on February 22. I have turned up *Votes and Proceedings* of the house to see what happened, and I find that on March 17 and on March 24 certain changes were made in the personnel of the committee. A notice for a meeting on March 26 appeared in the *Votes and Proceedings* of March 22 and the following day. I heard after March 26 that a chairman had been chosen. When I received notice yesterday from the hon. member that he intended to ask these questions, I mentioned them to the hon. member who I understand had been chosen as chairman. He told me that he had been discussing the possibility of holding a meeting this week with other members of the committee, but it was found that some of the members of the committee were to be away on official business to-day, the day suggested for the meeting. He told me that