

order that they might carry out a detailed analysis of the various proposals being considered by the commission, so that the department would be better prepared for consideration of the report after it is published and the preparation of any legislation that the government may decide to introduce after such consideration.

On a few occasions individual officers in the public service have been asked by the commission to comment on particular matters, because of their specialized knowledge or experience and they have done so. No instructions in regard to any such comments have been given by ministers. The commissioners have of course full responsibility to decide on what they wish to say and recommend in their report.

I have not read any of these drafts myself and do not intend to read any of them until the government receives the report. I am informed by the chairman of the commission there will be six volumes in all of the report, and that some of these, in both languages, are now at the printers.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I would hope the answer now is completed, because it seems to me the reply is inordinately long and, I suggest, is not the type of reply which should be made on questions.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North centre):** May I ask a brief supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the time which has elapsed, and in view of various other considerations, would the minister now give thought to the possibility of tabling tomorrow the documents which have been requested as set out in a motion of mine which has been on the order paper since January 31, 1966.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, the reason I have not wished to answer this question is that I have been told by my officials that to publish this correspondence would be to reveal by that fact some of the contents of the report which might lead to unnecessary speculation about the report itself.

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, in the light of what has been revealed by the Minister of Finance, would the Prime Minister consider at this stage directing that the practice of submitting draft copies of a report to government departments before publication is a practice which breaks every precedent, and should be discontinued.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot agree with what my hon. friend said about the practice, and the way it has been carried out on this occasion.

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**UNITED NATIONS**

**COMMITMENT TO SELECTIVE OBLIGATORY SANCTIONS**

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether or not today the Prime Minister is in a position to give the house some information regarding the Rhodesian situation, and in particular to advise us whether Canada has agreed to accept a certain list of selective commodities to be placed on the embargo list by the United Nations if and when this matter is transferred or submitted to the United Nations.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that if the talks break down that well might happen. I understand the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom may be making a statement on this matter to the House of Commons at Westminster tomorrow. I do not wish to anticipate what he may say, but if the talks break down, then the United Kingdom is pledged to take up the matter with the United Nations. As agreed at the last conference of prime ministers, it is expected that a resolution will be submitted to the Security Council by the United Kingdom, if it secures Commonwealth support for the resolution, which will deal with selective obligatory sanctions. Discussion of the details of that resolution, if and when made, is still going on. But as a government we are committed to the principle of selective obligatory sanctions against Rhodesia if talks break down.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Could the Prime Minister advise the house whether any of these selective commodities to be placed on the embargo list would affect Canada in any way and, second, is there any foundation for the suggestion that, should the embargo not be any more successful than the hoped for success of last January or February, any of Canada's forces will be made available to bring down the Smith administration.

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, our position in respect of the use of force against Rhodesia has been made quite clear. We are against that, as indeed the United Kingdom and certain other governments are against it. The question of obligatory sanctions under chapter 7 of the United Nations charter is something quite apart from the voluntary sanctions which have not been successful. Sanctions under chapter 7, if accepted and applied by all