

Inquiries of the Ministry

that the Prime Minister tabled on the first day of this session, may I ask the minister whether there will be such a bill during the course of this session?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): It is highly unlikely, Mr. Speaker.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONSPARTICIPATION OF MUNICIPALITIES
IN CONFERENCE

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): I have a question for the Prime Minister. In view of the oncoming federal-provincial conference, is it the intention of the government, in co-operation with the provinces, to invite representatives of the municipalities throughout the nation to attend this conference?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): At one point I made some general remarks along the lines suggested by the hon. member, but of course I cannot issue directions to the provinces with regard to the composition of their delegations.

Mr. Alexander: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Prime Minister prepared to take leadership in this regard and to follow up the matter with the provinces in order to get their opinions?

Mr. Trudeau: Sometimes I am asked to take leadership within areas of provincial jurisdiction and at other times I am asked not to take leadership in the area of federal jurisdiction, so I am not quite sure in which direction the House wishes me to go.

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Prime Minister say whether representatives from the Northwest Territories Council and the Yukon Council will attend the conference?

Mr. Trudeau: I expect the arrangements to be similar to the ones that existed in the past.

[*Translation*]

THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTIONINQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF
HOUSE COMMITTEE

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Since he stated recently that he was contemplating setting up a committee on constitutional matters, is he in a position to advise us whether a decision has been taken in this connection? If not, would he be prepared to

issue a statement on this subject in the near future?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the decision has been announced in principle. The main thing is to agree with the leaders of the opposition parties on the most suitable time for the creation of that committee.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question—

[*English*]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRSGREECE—REPORTED REPRESSION AND
TORTURE—CANADIAN
REPRESENTATIONS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I would like to ask the Prime Minister a question concerning leadership outside the country. In view of the continuing reports of repression and torture by the military government of Greece, is the government of Canada making any special effort within NATO to bring the strongest possible pressure to bear on the regime in Greece and, if so, what measures are being taken and what alternatives are being considered by the government?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the European Commission on Human Rights is studying this question at the present time, and I do not believe that an intervention by the government of Canada is advisable at this time, particularly in view of the fact that the Greek government has agreed to an inspection by a Red Cross international commission of the camps where Greek citizens are detained, and that this commission plans to publish a report on the matter.

[*English*]

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Prime Minister ensure that the House is given a report on the present extent of Canadian sales and supplies of military and other equipment to Greece in view of the apparent increase in Canadian military exports to that country since the present regime took over?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, Greece is a member of NATO and this question must necessarily come under our general NATO policy.