

Inquiries of the Ministry

these representations is not yet known, but we are doing everything possible to protect Garrard's interests.

THE MINISTRY**SUGGESTED APPOINTMENT OF NEW DEFENCE MINISTER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erhart Regier (Burnaby-Coquitlam): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In the light of the increasing crusade being waged by the Minister of National Defence on behalf of the extension of the nuclear club, can we expect that the commendable effort by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in connection with this matter will be crowned with success at an early date by the appointment of a new minister of national defence?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The gentleman's question is a rather argumentative one and asks for the announcement of an appointment by the government. Such announcements, in my experience, have always been made on the government's own initiative and not in answer to questions from the floor.

INDIAN AFFAIRS**RESOLUTIONS REQUESTING BRINGING INTO FORCE OF SECTION 96A OF ACT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I wonder whether in the absence of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration I may direct a question to the parliamentary secretary, of which I hope sufficient notice has been given.

Can the parliamentary secretary inform the house whether any reply has been received from the attorney general of British Columbia with respect to the resolutions from the Tsitsk, Bella Coola, Kincolith, Metlakatla, Canyon City and Gitlakdamix Indian bands requesting that section 96A(2) of the Indian Act be brought into force, which resolutions were forwarded to the attorney general? If so, could he also give an indication as to the contents of the reply?

Mr. John Charlton (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): I wish to thank the hon. member for Skeena for having given me notice of his intention to ask this question. The reply to the first part of the question is yes; a reply has been received from the attorney general of the province of British Columbia. As far as the second part of the question is concerned the contents of the letter are being studied. I am not in a position to make any comment at the present time.

[Mr. Green.]

(Translation):

LABOUR CONDITIONS**DORVAL AIRPORT—SITUATION OF PORTERS AND EFFECT OF ORDER IN COUNCIL**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether he could give us any information concerning the matter of the Sky-Caps porters at Dorval airport about which he was supposed to make inquiries some time ago.

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the situation remains unchanged for the time being and is still being looked into.

Mr. Chevrier: The minister was also supposed to tell the house whether the order in council passed by his department constitutes an infringement upon provincial rights, that is to say, civil rights.

The minister made that statement in reply to a question of mine on February 3. Over a month has elapsed since then. Is the minister in a position to tell us whether he has made inquiries?

Mr. Balcer: Mr. Speaker, there is no infringement upon the civil rights of the provinces, and I advise my hon. friend that the order in council in question has not actually been carried into effect in the present case. We are still looking into the situation before reaching a final decision.

GRAND'MERE—STATEMENT CONCERNING SHUT-DOWN OF TWO INDUSTRIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. J. A. Lambert (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the question put by the hon. member for St. Maurice-Lafleche on March 16 regarding Grand'Mere Knitting Mills and Grand'Mere Handicraft, I might say that those companies have not applied to the Minister of National Revenue for assistance. Neither did the minister himself ask that special measures be taken in favour of those companies. Any steps taken are intended for the textile industry in general.

(Text):

FORD MOTOR COMPANY—LAY-OFFS OF MACHINE REPAIRMEN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, on Thursday last the hon. member for Trinity directed a question to the Minister of Labour based on a communication received by the Minister of Finance, a copy of which was sent to the Minister of Labour. I would like