

Inquiries of the Ministry

ber 26, 1964, two seriously injured cadets from the Royal Military College, Kingston, were taken to the Queen Mary veterans hospital in Montreal for first aid treatment, but were refused admission? Will the minister tell us if this action is in accordance with the rules of his department, and will the minister have the matter investigated?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I want to thank the hon. member for advising me at the lunch hour that this question was going to be raised. A partial investigation has been made, and the information received to date is that these cadets arrived at the main gate of the Queen Mary hospital around 1 a.m. Sunday morning dressed as civilians. They did not identify themselves as cadets. They were advised to go to the west gate for entrance to the admitting department.

On arrival at the west gate one of them placed a telephone call, and before the telephone call was finished they were met by the police who took them away. It is not clear why they left with the police or why they were not let in to the admitting department. We are continuing the investigation.

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Can the minister say if he is aware whether these cadets were refused admission to any other hospital?

Mr. Teillet: I have no further information at this moment. As soon as I have it I will be able to report to the house.

RENT INCREASES IN VARIOUS
HOUSING PROJECTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Is the minister aware of the difficulties caused to tenants of some veterans housing projects as a result of rent increases, and would he look into this problem so that no undue hardship or difficulty may be experienced by the veterans concerned?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I will be glad to look into the matter.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

FAILURE TO FLY QUEBEC FLAG AT ROYAL
22ND REGIMENT CEREMONY

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Hon. J. P. Deschatelets (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, last Friday the hon. member for Dorchester (Mr. Boutin) and the

[Mr. Groos.]

hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) asked various questions concerning the arrangement of flags at the national war memorial during the ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Royal 22nd regiment.

Before the ceremony authorities of the regiment actually inquired about the possibility of raising fleur-de-lis flags between red ensigns around the national war memorial. Even though the public works department is responsible for flying the flags, no decision is ever made in such circumstances without first seeking advice from the protocol division, and this was done in this case.

Following various consultations with the protocol division, the officers of the Royal 22nd regiment were advised that the fleur-de-lis could not alternate with the red ensign around the war memorial but that it could be flown by the regiment during the ceremony.

The hon. members must realize that, in many cases of this type, custom, tradition and precedents must guide us; and I must add that the only flags that can alternate with that of Canada around the war memorial are those of foreign countries which, on occasion, pay tribute to our dead.

In this case the decision was taken in conformity with the policy followed in the past. I am among the first to regret that what is called "protocol" should be so rigid, but I am also among the first to recognize that it must be so. Therefore, one must not look here for any motive other than the usual custom to explain the decision made and it would be unfortunate to think otherwise, because the ceremony which took place in the capital last week was everything we had hoped it would be: a moving tribute from the government of Canada to one of its most gallant regiments.

Mr. Pierre-André Boutin (Dorchester): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Prime Minister a question.

The Minister of Public Works has just said that the decision was taken by the protocol branch, which is under the secretary of state department.

Could the Prime Minister remind the Secretary of State that the protocol branch comes under his jurisdiction, because last Friday he did not seem to know it. He said then that the matter was the sole responsibility of the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Deschatelets: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege. I must point out to the hon. member that I did not say that it was up to the Secretary of State to make a decision in this