

### PUBLIC SERVICE

#### ALLEGATION BY PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE RESPECTING PATRONAGE

**Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West):** May I direct this question to the Prime Minister in the absence of the President of the Treasury Board. Would the Prime Minister undertake to investigate the allegation by the Public Service Alliance that government hiring practices are resulting in increasing personal and bureaucratic patronage in the Public Service?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I will try to see what representations were made and follow them up.

**Mr. Carter:** In view of the allegation by the president of the Public Service Alliance that abuses have crept in since the Public Service Commission turned over hiring practices to the departments, will the Prime Minister take action to have the Public Service Commission assume full responsibility for hiring practices in all departments?

**Mr. Trudeau:** As I said in answer to the previous question, I will look into the matter. I am satisfied there is no accusation of patronage exercised by the government; this relates to the Public Service, as I understand it.

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### AGRICULTURE

#### INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION TO ASSIST OWNERS OF SMALL FARMS TO RETIRE OR CHANGE OCCUPATION

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. It concerns proposed legislation which would assist owners of small farms to retire or take up other trades or professions. Would the minister tell us when we can expect the legislation to be brought down?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** I cannot give a precise date. Obviously, the legislation cannot be introduced until we have reached a satisfactory level of agreement with the provinces, and negotiations are still being conducted.

**Mr. Murta:** Is it true that the minister plans to place a ceiling of \$20,000 as the maximum value of farms which would be covered—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member is asking the minister to confirm or deny a statement, and a question in those terms is not in order.

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[Translation]

### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

#### SUGGESTED CONFERENCE ON FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I see that the Solicitor General has left the House. I will therefore ask my question of the Prime Minister.

### Inquiries of the Ministry

Would he tell us when he will propose a federal-provincial conference on the sharing of jurisdictions and on the provincial and federal responsibilities in the criminal field?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the general issue of distribution of power between the two government levels was put on the agenda as early as the February 1969 conference if my memory serves me right. Of course, the issue of penal and criminal jurisdiction is included but, as far as I know, no province has urgently requested a study of this question.

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### FINANCE

#### LIMITATION OF FOREIGN BORROWING BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

**Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Can he tell the House whether he has sent to the Quebec premier a list of Canadian institutions from which he could obtain the funds he needs instead of looking for money outside this country?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member's question is being put as a suggestion to the minister. I do not believe that, in such terms, this question is in order.

**Mr. Ricard:** Respectfully, Mr. Speaker, I should like to insist since the matter is vitally important and since the minister himself has made this point. I think that people would be happy to be informed of the minister's views in that respect.

**Mr. Speaker:** The minister could indicate his views on motions, if it is the hon. member's wish.

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[English]

### WATER RESOURCES

#### DIVERSION INTO SASKATCHEWAN RIVER OF WATER FROM NORTHWARD FLOWING STREAMS—DISCUSSIONS WITH ALBERTA

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Has the federal government held any discussions with the provincial authorities in Alberta concerning the diversion of water into the Saskatchewan River from water sources now flowing north to the Arctic?

**Hon. Jack Davies (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** There have been discussions concerning the Peace River and the flooding of the Athabasca delta, but our discussions have been confined primarily to that subject.

**Mr. Harding:** Has any agreement for diversion been reached and, if so, how many acre feet are involved? Have surveys been made to assess any ecological damage which may result from such a diversion?

**Mr. Davis:** I have no knowledge of a possible diversion, Mr. Speaker.