

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, of course the hon. gentleman realizes that I would not have that information. I will have it secured and made available.

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have not the exact figures, but I will make inquiries and let the hon. member know tomorrow.

NATURAL RESOURCESINQUIRY AS TO PRESENTATION TO CONFERENCE
BY TREE FARMERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Will provision be made on the agenda of the resources for tomorrow conference being held this year for member representatives of the Canadian tree farmers association to present a brief on behalf of the grass roots independent tree farmers?

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his interest in this important conference. I can assure him that briefs will be welcomed from all provincial and national organizations interested in developing Canada's resources. We have not received a brief from this particular group as yet, but I can assure the hon. member that we will be very happy to hear from them.

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the resources conference has solicited briefs from some 80 to 90 organizations, was any request sent to this organization to obtain their views in complete terms?

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, the co-ordinating committee of this conference is made up of a representative from each of the provincial governments. Through that channel invitations have been extended to all provincial groups to make their opinions heard.

COMMUNICATIONSPACIFIC CABLE—INQUIRY AS TO DIVISION
OF WORK

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport and ask him in view of the statement made in Montreal yesterday, I believe by the chairman of the Canadian Overseas Telecommunications Corporation, that a cable will be constructed between Canada and Australia, whether he can inform the house how the work of construction will be divided among the participating countries, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia, and how much of the work will be assigned to Canada.

Some hon. Members: Order paper.

INDIAN AFFAIRSGRAND RAPIDS, MAN.—REPORTED NON-PAYMENT
OF AGREED WAGES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration arising out of a Canadian Press report dated January 27—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Badanai: —concerning protests by Indians at Grand Rapids, Manitoba, to the effect that they are not receiving the wages promised by the Drake Construction Company of Winnipeg. Can the minister inform the house whether her department has made any attempt to protect the rights—

Mr. Speaker: Order. If I understand the hon. member's question correctly it relates to the payment of wages by a construction company, which surely is not any part of the administrative responsibility of the department.

[Later:]

Mr. Badanai: I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Has the hon. lady received any representations from the Indians of Grand Rapids, Manitoba, regarding their wage difficulties with the construction company for which they work?

Mr. Speaker: A question about the receipt of a communication should, of course, be of sufficient importance to warrant its being asked. However, I think I might permit a reply to be made.

Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): No representations have been made by the Indians to my department. I would point out to the hon. member that the group concerned in the incident to which he refers includes many metis and people not of Indian blood. In these circumstances the whole matter is being handled by the provincial department concerned. However, in an effort to protect those Indians who are to some extent the responsibility of my department, we have been in constant consultation with the authorities of the province of Manitoba.