

Inquiries of the Ministry

of Justice. As it seems evident that no agreement will be reached with regard to provincial lotteries during the federal-provincial conference now taking place, can the Minister of Justice tell us whether he intends to introduce in the very near future a bill in the house tending to amend the Criminal Code so as to allow provincial lotteries, as promised by the Liberal party during the last election campaign?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the introductory remarks to the question, which certainly anticipate discussions which might take place during this federal-provincial conference, as well as those which took place this morning between the attorneys general of the provinces and the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Minister of Justice implied that I might jeopardize the progress of discussion at the federal-provincial conference. Yet, the Minister of Justice stated himself that there had been no agreement with regard to provincial lotteries, that the issue had been discussed, and that there was no chance of the matter being discussed again at the federal-provincial conference.

[Text]

FEDERAL ATTITUDE TOWARD ALLEGED ULTIMATUM
FROM QUEBEC

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister?

In view of the fact that the province of Quebec has a culture and a language which differ from those of the other provinces and that it has, consequently, different needs, can the minister assure us that the federal government will accept the legitimate requests of Quebec?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Acting Prime Minister): The brief of the province of Quebec, which has been tabled, will be given careful consideration by the conference and the federal government, as will the briefs submitted by the other provinces.

Mr. Pigeon: Is it the intention of the federal government to capitulate to the requests of British Columbia, which are greater than those of Quebec?

Mr. Chevrier: I see that the hon. member must have consulted his chief, as yesterday the latter asked the same question about the province of Quebec.

[Mr. Valade.]

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question? Can the Acting Prime Minister tell us whether the federal-provincial conference will carry on with its work next week?

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, the matter rests with the provincial premiers and with the federal government, as they establish, from day to day, the procedure to be followed.

[Later:]

Hon. Leon Balcer (Three Rivers): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. Could he tell us whether the federal government has denied up to now the 25-25-100 formula of the Quebec premier, so that under the equalization system that province will have to be satisfied with some \$30 million, a clearly insufficient amount considering its needs at the present time?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the formulas submitted by the province of Quebec and several other provinces are now being studied by the government.

[Text]

AVAILABILITY OF SUBMISSIONS PRESENTED
BY DELEGATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I ask is this a private debate, or can any of us get in on it? From the nature of the discussion I thought we were on motions. May I ask the Acting Prime Minister a question. Yesterday he tabled the submissions which have been presented at the federal-provincial conference, and he said that copies would be made available. On inquiry at the sessional papers office I found there was only one copy, and that was out on loan. I have not been able to get an original copy to make other copies, and there is no copy available anywhere.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is quite right. The difficulty is that when I inquired yesterday after I returned to the conference there were only four copies, and the copy I tabled was one of those four. Therefore what is being done now by the secretariat is to ask the premiers for additional copies just as quickly as they can be obtained, and when they are they will be given to the members.